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Sustainable development: disaster risk reduction

Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/218. In accordance with Assembly resolution 71/227, the report also includes a section on an effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon. Since 2015, a global policy architecture has been developed with the aim of guiding the integration of disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change adaptation. Many countries have or are in the process of developing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies towards global target (e) of the Sendai Framework, to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in place by 2020.

More can be done to leverage the dividends of disaster risk reduction to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Concerted efforts are needed to support the integration of disaster risk reduction strategies with sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies. To turn strategies into action, tailored disaster risk reduction financing instruments and greater risk-informed investments by the public and private sectors are needed.

Entities across the United Nations system have integrated disaster risk reduction into their strategic frameworks and are coming together to offer a comprehensive package of support to Member States in line with the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development.

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I. State of disaster risk

1. Disaster risk reduction must be at the core of sustainable development strategies and economic policies if countries are to fulfil the commitment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind. This ambition is supported by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, which calls for special attention to be paid to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. Significant progress has been made in implementing the Sendai Framework since its adoption by Member States in March 2015. A risk-informed approach is progressively permeating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, for many of the world's poorest countries and most vulnerable communities, disasters continue to reverse development gains, undermine resilience, exacerbate inequality and curtail prospects for economic growth.

2. Using probabilistic disaster risk models, it is possible to estimate the value and vulnerability of assets in hazard-prone areas to calculate a country's average annual losses from disasters. This represents the amount that a country would have to set aside each year to cover the cost of future disasters. When comparing average annual losses against gross domestic product, it is apparent that risk is concentrated in low- and middle-income countries, in particular small island developing States (see table below). The World Bank estimates that disasters push 26 million people into poverty each year.[1] Poor people are exposed to hazards more often, lose a greater share of their assets when hit, have limited safety nets and receive less institutional support.[1] Women, children and people in vulnerable situations are often disproportionately affected (see General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II).

Average annual losses in relation to gross domestic product[2]

	Exposed value	*Average annual losses*		*Average annual losses GDP*
Country category	*Millions of United States dollars*	*Millions of United States dollars*	*Percentage*	*Percentage*
Least developed countries	1 710 610	7 712	4.508	8.491
Small island developing States	2 250 059	11 840	5.262	17.154
Landlocked developing countries	2 034 166	3 346	1.645	4.162
Low-income	6 878 049	16 919	2.460	8.064
Lower-middle-income	14 337 082	30 352	2.117	6.698
Upper-middle-income	60 860 908	67 984	1.117	3.418
High-income	195 550 673	169 650	0.868	3.639

Abbreviation: GDP, gross domestic product.

3. Globally, disaster mortality continued on a downward trend over the past 12 months, while disaster economic losses continued to rise.[3] It is estimated that annual economic losses attributed to natural hazards in 2017 were some of the highest on record, exceeding $334 billion.[4] The Atlantic hurricane season accounted for a

[1] Stephane Hallegatte and others, *Unbreakable: Building the Resilience of the Poor in the Face of Natural Disasters*, Climate Change and Development Series (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2017).

[2] United Nations, *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction Atlas: Unveiling Global Disaster Risk* (Geneva, 2017).

[3] Catholic University of Louvain, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, "Natural disasters in 2017: lower mortality, higher cost", *CRED Crunch*, issue No. 50 (March 2018).

[4] See www.emdat.be (accessed on 27 July 2018).

significant proportion of economic losses, causing $229 billion in damage across the Caribbean region,[3] with an unprecedented six major consecutive hurricanes in a season.[5] In 2017, 18.8 million people were newly internally displaced by disasters, compared with 11.8 million by conflict.[6]

4. The full extent of disaster risk, however, is by and large unknown. Direct disaster losses are considerably higher than internationally reported figures. In many countries, there is insufficient disaggregated information on where disaster risk currently exists, where it is being created, how cascading hazards interact and how climate change will shape disaster risk. Progress towards priority 1 of the Sendai Framework, on understanding disaster risk in all its dimensions, could contribute to closing this gap.

5. What is known is that sustainable development cannot be achieved through repetitive cycles of disasters, response and recovery. To ensure that those furthest behind are not left behind, action must be taken now not only to reduce existing risk but also to stop the creation of new risk. Structural measures to reduce disaster risk need to be accompanied by measures that reduce economic, social and environmental vulnerability and exposure to disasters, including resilience-building measures that enable exposed communities to withstand the impact of frequent small-scale disasters. Disaster risk reduction should be a priority for all actors, sectors and institutions working towards sustainable and inclusive development.

II. Realizing coherence among the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and globally agreed agendas and frameworks related to sustainable development

6. Disaster risk reduction is cross-cutting. The outcomes of the Sendai Framework will only be achieved through a coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change and other related intergovernmental agreements. Work is under way to realize this through shared risk analysis, guidance for integrated national policy development and implementation and common monitoring.

A. Pursuing a coherent and mutually reinforcing implementation of the Sendai Framework across intergovernmentally agreed agendas and policy frameworks

7. In its resolution 72/218, the General Assembly encouraged States to continue to prioritize and support the development of inclusive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, in accordance with target (e) of the Sendai Framework, and to promote synergies with existing national policies and plans, including national climate change adaptation plans. The Assembly also welcomed efforts to develop coherent metrics for reporting under the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant instruments.

8. In its resolution 71/222, the General Assembly proclaimed the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development". The Secretary-General's action plan for the Decade promotes coherence across the

[5] United States of America, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "Extremely active 2017 Atlantic hurricane season finally ends", 30 November 2017.

[6] For further information on the impact of recent disasters, see the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

water-related Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.

9. Disaster risk reduction financing was discussed at a special meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the theme "Aftermath of recent hurricanes: achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda", held on 24 October 2017. In the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development, held in April 2018, Member States recognized that the financial response of the international system to disasters was insufficient and that better disaster risk reduction and resilience-building mechanisms were required. Subsequently, Member States invited the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to examine existing frameworks and best practices on risk management being implemented by development banks and related financial institutions and requested the Task Force to discuss climate and disaster resilience in development financing in its report in 2019.

10. The Sendai Framework calls for the leveraging of science and technology as a means of implementation and for support for evidence-based disaster risk reduction strategies. Innovative technology for disaster risk reduction was discussed at the integration segment of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council and the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, held in May and June 2018. Deliberations were focused on increasing investments and capacities in science and technology to strengthen early warning systems and to develop evidence-based and inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies in synergy with local, traditional and indigenous knowledge. The launch of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries can support this effort.

11. The wider application of geospatial information is an important contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework. In its resolution 2018/14, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters as a guide for Member States to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management. At the high-level segment of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50), held in June 2018, participating States endorsed a draft resolution on space as a driver of sustainable development, in which the need for stronger coordination and support for the fulfilment of the Sendai Framework through improved access to space-based data and space infrastructure was reiterated, and recommended its adoption by the General Assembly.

12. The international human rights treaty bodies are also drawing on the Sendai Framework in their concluding observations and recommendations. At its 2018 session, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women endorsed its general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change. During the celebrations to mark the seventieth anniversary of the International Law Commission, the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in New York organized a side event to discuss the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters, which included the draft articles on disaster risk reduction. The General Assembly will further discuss the draft articles at its seventy-third session.

13. The need for greater consideration of disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was emphasized at the 2018 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Countries demonstrated in their voluntary national reviews how disasters undermine sustainable development and that reducing disaster risk can support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This was reflected in the ministerial declaration of

the high-level political forum, in which Member States called for augmented efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction into national and local sustainable development strategies and plans.

14. The 2019 high-level political forum, to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, will provide a critical opportunity to review the extent to which a risk-informed approach has been embedded in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to highlight where greater attention is needed. It will be essential to utilize the 2019 high-level political forum to ensure that the link between disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development is firmly implanted in the implementation and review of the Sustainable Development Goals. As the voluntary national reviews will inform these discussions, it is important that national Sendai Framework focal points be engaged early in the national review process. Deliberations and outcomes of the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be hosted by the Government of Switzerland and convened and organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva from 13 to 17 May 2019, as well as the 2019 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, will also provide key inputs to the 2019 high-level political forum.

B. Advancing coherence in the development and monitoring of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development policies and strategies

15. To translate the coherence between international agendas into integrated policies, strategies and programmes, many countries require technical and capacity development support on common approaches to data collection, shared risk analysis and joint monitoring across hazards and sectors. The United Nations system can build on and amalgamate its existing capacities in these areas to provide countries with more effective collective support to develop and monitor multisectoral, risk-informed and prevention-oriented sustainable development strategies.

Monitoring the Sendai Framework

16. The open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction requested the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to support Member States to measure progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework through an online monitoring system. In December 2017, the Sendai Framework monitoring process was initiated in Bonn, Germany, with a workshop on monitoring the Sendai Framework targets in conjunction with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Sendai Framework monitor was launched in March 2018, with accompanying technical guidance on the collection and analysis of disaggregated data. It provides an online platform for Member States to report on progress against the seven global targets and 38 indicators of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction targets of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13, as well as options for customized national indicators.

17. The Sendai Framework monitor also functions as a tool to guide risk-informed policy decisions and to allocate resources to prevention accordingly. As of July 2018, 47 countries are in the process of reporting through the monitor. Data from the monitor are shared with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to inform the deliberations of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Countries are requested to upload data for all global targets for the period 2015–2017 by 1 October 2018 to inform global stocktaking of several intergovernmental agreements in 2019, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris

Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Accelerated efforts are needed to increase the number of countries reporting through the monitor to provide a robust global overview of progress by 2019.

National climate change adaptation strategies

18. The development of national climate change adaptation strategies and national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 represents an opportunity to maximize synergies and the shared use of data sets and risk assessments. To this end, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change developed guidance on integrating climate change with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework. The Least Developed Countries Expert Group under the Framework Convention is taking this work forward to ensure coherence between national climate change adaptation plans and national disaster risk reduction strategies. The Adaptation Committee is currently exploring, at the technical expert level, how the Sendai Framework indicators and monitoring process can support the definition of adaptation goals and indicators under the Paris Agreement.

Integrated risk assessments

19. The interlinkages between the Sendai Framework, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda demonstrate the increasing recognition of connections between social, environmental and economic risks. This demands an integrated, multi-hazard, cross-sectoral approach to assessing risk and a deeper understanding of social and environmental vulnerability.

20. A global risk assessment framework, currently under development by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in consultation with global risk assessment experts, will provide an open source online portal where the results of risk assessments across sectors and hazards can be standardized and displayed in an interoperable format. Covering the expanded scope of hazards and risks in line with the Sendai Framework, the global risk assessment framework will translate risk assessments across geographical areas, sectors and scales into actionable and timely recommendations for disaster risk reduction and prevention strategies available to decision makers.

21. Spearheaded by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Index for Risk Management provides open source risk profiles for humanitarian crises and disasters. Risk profiles support decision-making for crisis response, recovery, prevention and preparedness for use by humanitarian and development actors. Responding to the need for localized risk assessments, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are currently piloting the Index at the subnational level. The complementary application of these tools, among others, is critical to the implementation of a common methodology for risk assessments across the United Nations humanitarian and development systems towards an integrated approach to prevention and the more systematic provision of support to countries with regard to data analysis and risk assessment.

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

22. Preparations are under way for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2019. The biennial Global Platform is the principal forum to inform policymaking on current issues related to disaster risk reduction and to monitor and enhance the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Held under the theme "Resilience dividend: towards sustainable and inclusive societies", and with the 2020 deadline for target (e) of the Sendai Framework in mind, the 2019 Global Platform will discuss

the development and implementation of inclusive and coherent disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies. Sessions will be focused on the importance of local action, as well as integrating disaster and climate risk into public and private investments and economic planning, among other things. Representation from a broad range of ministries and stakeholders can facilitate discussions and outcomes that support a risk-informed approach across sectors. The deliberations and outcomes of the Global Platform, as well as the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, are expected to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The 2019 Global Platform is also included in the road map for the Secretary-General's climate summit to be held in 2019.

C. Financing disaster risk reduction and risk-informed investments for sustainable development

23. Tailored disaster risk reduction financing instruments are needed to turn national and local disaster risk reduction strategies into action and to create the fiscal space for a risk-informed approach to sustainable development. Advances have been made in disaster risk financing, including regional and national risk transfer schemes, standby credit facilities and State-contingent debt instruments, among others, to protect fiscal balances, avoid debt distress and finance recovery efforts. Coverage of these mechanisms should be expanded and strengthened to ensure that they create incentives for disaster risk reduction and that the funds are used to incentivize early action and to "build back better".

24. Disaster risk financing rarely covers frequent losses from small-scale disasters,[7] which increasingly erode the resilience of the poorest households and communities. Countries often resort to diverting funds from other areas of budget expenditure and deepening their sovereign debt. Resources spent on recovery and reconstruction could have been allocated to investments in sustainable development.

25. As countries develop integrated national financing frameworks and pipelines of investable projects for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is vital that those frameworks and projects are risk-informed and accompanied by disaster risk reduction financing instruments. Most countries do not have a dedicated budget for disaster risk reduction.[8] Greater engagement by ministries of finance, the economy and planning can enhance the allocation of domestic resources to disaster risk reduction, include disaster risk reduction in budgeting and financial planning across all relevant sectors and align sustainable development strategies, financing frameworks and infrastructure plans with disaster risk reduction strategies.

26. In most economies, private investment comprises the majority of total capital formation. Capital investment by the private sector is therefore critical for sustainable development. Disaster risk is rarely made explicit and is often only discovered in the event of a disaster. Hidden contingent liabilities arising from unaccounted disaster risk come bundled together with apparent comparative advantages in locations that seemingly offer potential for short-term gains. Regulating the conduct and disclosure of disaster risk assessment can provide an understanding of hidden fiscal liabilities to promote longer-term risk-informed investments by the private and public sectors.

[7] Lydia Poole, "A calculated risk: how donors should engage with risk financing and transfer mechanisms", Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Cooperation Working Paper No. 17 (Paris, OECD, 2014).

[8] The Economist Intelligence Unit, "Towards disaster-risk sensitive investments: the disaster risk-integrated operational risk model" (London, The Economist Intelligence Unit, 2016).

27. As no country can reduce disaster risk alone, enhanced means of implementation and international cooperation, including South-South cooperation and global partnerships, are critical to implement the Sendai Framework. In January 2018, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development approved a disaster risk reduction policy marker. The establishment of a policy marker for disaster risk reduction can address the challenges in accurately tracking and reporting on funding that contributes to disaster risk reduction and can encourage the integration of disaster risk reduction in national budgets, as well as in bilateral development cooperation, infrastructure financing and support from international and regional development banks, thus supporting the achievement of the target (f) of the Sendai Framework, to substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries. In November 2017, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean established a debt swap task force to develop a mechanism to swap external debt of Caribbean countries for climate adaptation investments. Furthermore, in June 2018, the Latin American Network on Risk Management and Climate Change in Public Investment reaffirmed its commitments to support countries to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into national public investment systems.

D. Coordination of disaster risk reduction across the United Nations system

28. To provide countries with more coordinated and effective support to reduce disaster risk and translate integrated policies into programmes on the ground, entities of the United Nations system are required to adopt a risk-informed approach in the discharge of their respective mandates, in accordance with commitments made in the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development. The Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience highlighted the need to review progress and the support provided to countries towards target (e) of the Sendai Framework, as well as to develop common diagnostics and joint guidance across climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development as priority areas.

29. United Nations entities have continued to integrate the Sendai Framework into their strategic plans to ensure that activities are risk-informed and contribute to disaster risk reduction. Prevention, resilience, addressing climate change and reducing the number of people affected by disasters are areas for collaboration and shared outcomes of the common chapter in each of the strategic plans of UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) strategic plans for the period 2018–2021.

30. In the UNICEF strategic plan, this translates into enhanced coherence and connectedness between humanitarian action and longer-term programming through the analysis of risks related to disaster, conflict and climate change for programming that supports preparedness, recovery and resilience against future shocks. In the UNFPA strategic plan, the focus of humanitarian intervention strategies will shift from reacting to disasters to applying a resilience approach that links prevention, preparedness, response and risk mitigation. This is supported by disaster risk reduction plans that are regularly informed by sex- and age-disaggregated population data and integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as gender-based violence. The UN-Women strategic plan supports gender-responsive risk analysis, the contribution of women and women's organizations to disaster risk management plans, gender-responsive recovery preparedness and the collection of sex-disaggregated disaster-related data. In the UNDP strategic plan, disaster risk reduction and resilience

is a core element of an integrated approach to enhance national prevention and recovery capacities and to address drivers of risk to avoid crises and return quickly to stable development after crises.

31. UNDP, in collaboration with other United Nations entities, has supported the integration of disaster and climate risk in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support initiative in 14 countries in the past year. Furthermore, the inter-agency Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative partnership continues to support countries to identify critical capacity gaps in risk reduction and to develop coherent interventions to address these gaps that bring to bear expertise from across and beyond the United Nations system. The Initiative has developed a new programmatic phase to offer integrated and joint capacity development support on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

32. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) adopted a strategic workplan on disaster risk reduction and resilience for the period 2017–2020, entitled "Taking Sendai forward". The workplan builds on the comparative advantage of IOM to assist countries in taking forward the areas of the Sendai Framework relating to migrants and migration, to address the disaster-related drivers of migration and to support the integration of the mobility dimensions of disaster risk reduction in inter-agency strategies.

33. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization adopted a medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021, which highlights disaster risk reduction as an area in which the organization will further strengthen its cooperation in line with the Sendai Framework.

34. To build capacities for resilient health systems, the World Health Organization (WHO) Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 will include an all-hazards health emergency risk management approach that integrates the International Health Regulations (2005) with the health aspects of the Sendai Framework and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. With a view to implementing a more coordinated and cross-cutting service delivery approach, in May 2018 the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and WHO signed a new framework collaboration agreement to strengthen the understanding and management of health risks associated with extreme weather, water, climate and related environmental events, including in urban areas where poor air quality and extreme heat are emerging health risks. In June 2018, the WMO Executive Council decided to advance the implementation of the WMO disaster risk reduction road map.

35. Supporting countries to strengthen disaster risk reduction towards ending hunger is a focus of the World Food Programme strategic plan for 2017–2021. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducts its disaster risk reduction work through its strategic objective on increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises, which supports countries to plan, implement and monitor disaster risk reduction across agriculture-related sectors. The work of FAO on disaster risk reduction is anchored in the Sendai Framework while linking with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises of the Committee on World Food Security, the "One Health" approach and the sustaining peace agenda.

36. The World Bank Group is mainstreaming risk management throughout its portfolio. The updated operational risk assessment framework requires all new projects be screened for disaster and climate risks, and new initiatives aim to ensure that infrastructure systems are designed, built and maintained to maximize resilience. The Group has identified mobilizing private capital, improving the resilience of

urbanization and infrastructure, building resilience to climate change and strengthening disaster risk management capacity in fragile contexts as priority areas.

37. It is expected that the reform of the United Nations development system will strengthen the capacity of United Nations country teams to deliver more coordinated and integrated support to countries on disaster risk reduction across sectors, including through risk-informed United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and by fully leveraging all relevant assets and expertise across the United Nations development system. Revamping the United Nations development system at the regional level will provide an opportunity to strengthen coordinated support and make more effective use of specialized agencies and regional entities of the United Nations system to further deepen the understanding of disaster risk in the economic and social analysis provided to countries in the design and monitoring of national development strategies. Implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience will lead to the efficient provision by the United Nations of diverse support to countries and is a significant contribution to the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the reform of the United Nations development system.

38. Meanwhile, UNDP is convening entities of the United Nations system to develop system-wide guidance on resilience to bring greater coherence across the work of the Organization on resilience-building. The guidance will take a multi-hazard and multi-risk perspective, encompassing disasters, climate, humanitarian action, health, food security, gender inequality, violent conflict and human rights. It will provide United Nations country teams with guidance to utilize resilience as an integrated programming approach to delivering the 2030 Agenda and to ensure coherence in implementing programmes that support resilience across sectors. The guidance will also contribute to the reform of the United Nations development system and an integrated approach to prevention.

39. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction completed an organizational review and change management process to realign its strategic focus and business processes to ensure that it is fit for purpose to deliver its mandate for years to come. Without reducing the total number of staff, the change process reduced the overall proportion of the budget spent on staff costs and strengthened the Office's regional presence to improve the effectiveness of support provided to countries to implement the Sendai Framework. The change management process is in line with the reform of the United Nations development system and management processes and there is strong commitment to efficiency and accountability.

III. Implementing the Sendai Framework at the regional and national levels

40. On the basis of global policies on disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development, regional and subregional mechanisms have established integrated region-specific policies that support national policymaking and strategy development. National and local disaster risk reduction strategies are a requisite for a risk-informed approach to sustainable development. The participation of national Sendai Framework focal points in national sustainable development coordination mechanisms can help to reflect global policy coherence in integrated national programmes. Progress in the establishment or strengthening of national platforms for disaster risk reduction has also reinforced guidance to pursue a risk-informed approach to sustainable development. Greater commitment by all actors is needed to translate national policies and strategies into legislation and regulations and to turn integrated policies into programmes, particularly at the local level.

41. The United Nations continues to provide technical guidance to countries to develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, including the establishment or development of disaster loss databases, which provide an evidence base to develop or update disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework. As of July 2018, 71 countries and territories had developed or were in the process of developing disaster risk reduction strategies aligned with the Sendai Framework.

42. During the reporting period, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction trained 975 national and local government officials and stakeholders from 66 countries on the development of disaster risk reduction strategies, on understanding disaster risk and on the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Forty per cent of participants were women. A further 162 participants received online training. National disaster risk assessment guidelines were launched in October 2017, which focus on the first priority for action of the Sendai Framework, on understanding disaster risk. The Office is working in close collaboration with Governments, stakeholders and United Nations partners on a capacity development strategy to be launched in 2019.

Africa

43. In January 2018, the African Union Executive Council adopted a common position on disaster risk reduction, with commitments to galvanize action around inclusive and evidence-based national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, including by strengthening institutional capacities and mobilizing domestic resources. This was echoed by the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2018, which called for the strengthening of political support, capacities and resources for integrating disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development at all levels.

44. The Economic Community of Central African States deliberated on and approved the revised priority actions for the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the third ministerial conference and the first Central Africa joint conference on meteorology and disaster risk reduction, hosted by the Government of the Congo in Brazzaville in October 2017, which followed the sixth subregional platform for disaster risk reduction in Central Africa. The platform provided guidance on integrating disaster risk reduction into national legislation across sectors, including initiatives to enhance understanding of disaster risk, the creation or strengthening of multisectoral national platforms for disaster risk reduction and the integration of disaster risk reduction across public regulations, standards and codes while strengthening the legal and regulatory environment.

45. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) convened a regional disaster risk reduction conference, hosted by the Government of South Africa in Pretoria in March 2018. In the outcome statement, SADC member States committed to integrated monitoring and reporting on disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development actions. Member States also recognized the need for greater financing for disaster risk reduction, committed to prioritizing disaster risk and climate change-informed investments for sustainable development and were called upon to significantly increase the allocation of national budgets for disaster risk reduction.

46. The peer support group of the Regional United Nations Development Group for East and Southern Africa developed guidance on sustainability and resilience and on risk-informed programming to ensure that a disaster risk-informed approach is incorporated in the elaboration of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. The guidelines also support resilient and risk-informed investments by the public and private sectors. The United Nations-African Union cluster on

humanitarian matters and disaster risk management approved a workplan for 2017 and 2018. The workplan outlines targeted support to the African Union Commission in implementing the plan of action at the national level and further integrating disaster risk reduction into the African Union policy organs.

47. Thirteen countries[9] have national disaster risk reduction strategies that are aligned with the Sendai Framework and three countries[10] are in the process of alignment. Furthermore, disaster loss tracking training was delivered in seven countries, which is also a key contribution to multi-hazard probabilistic risk profiles that support disaster and climate risk-informed investments. Fifty local governments were also supported to monitor and review their progress in implementing the Sendai Framework. The National Risk Atlas tool, developed by UNDP with the support of the European Union and the World Bank, has also been piloted in Rwanda and Uganda to support risk-informed development planning in all new public and private investments.

The Americas and the Caribbean

48. The sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, hosted by the Government of Colombia and organized jointly with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cartagena from 20 to 22 June 2018, was an opportunity to review progress made and provide guidance for moving forward with regard to the regional action plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas. Six countries[11] have finalized national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework, and the strategies of 11 countries and territories are currently under development.[12] To date, 1,800 local governments have committed to enhancing resilience through the Making Cities Resilient campaign, including 50 cities in 14 countries that have applied the disaster resilience scorecard[13] to assess their resilience to disaster risk.

49. In the declaration adopted at the sixth Regional Platform,[14] countries were called upon to develop and strengthen disaster risk reduction plans and strategies in line with target (e) of the Sendai Framework, and the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks to integrate disaster risk reduction across development measures was recognized. Member States highlighted the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction in all sectors and positioning disaster risk reduction as a public policy priority at the national and local levels. This requires strengthened public-private partnerships and a commitment to invest domestic resources. The importance of including disaster risk reduction in national inputs to the high-level political forum on sustainable development was also reiterated. At a special session on recovery in the Caribbean held during the Regional Platform, it was concluded that building resilience should be transformational. To this end, social protection for the most vulnerable, the safeguarding of infrastructure, economic diversification, environmental protection and operational readiness were highlighted as five critical pillars for resilience in the Caribbean. Jamaica will host the Regional Platform in 2020, which member States decided to rename the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean.

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[9] Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger and Nigeria.

[10] Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

[11] Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

[12] Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

[13] See United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Disaster resilience scorecard for cities". Available at https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/53349.

[14] See http://eird.org/pr18/docs/cartagena-declaration.pdf.

50. The comprehensive disaster management strategy for the Caribbean has been aligned with the Sendai Framework, including the use of common indicators to ensure coherence in monitoring and reporting. The Central American policy for disaster risk management was approved at the Central American presidential summit held in Panama in December 2017, providing guidance to countries to develop national plans and strategies for disaster risk reduction with corresponding budget allocations. The Andean strategy for disaster risk management has also been aligned with the Sendai Framework, and an action plan with related indicators is under development. Moreover, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States approved the regional strategy for disaster risk management in the agriculture sector and food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018–2030.

51. The United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean inter-agency working group for resilience is fostering a joint approach to provide coordinated support to countries on disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change adaptation. The working group is supporting United Nations country teams to adopt a resilience perspective in the common country analysis and in the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and is guiding country teams to support countries in conducting national risk assessments and disaster risk reduction capacity assessments for evidence-based national strategies.

52. Furthermore, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in partnership with the National Emergency System of Uruguay and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales) is developing a training module to analyse and better understand the root causes of national and transboundary disasters in Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil. UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, have initiated a programme to strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at the regional, national and community level in five Caribbean countries.

Arab region

53. The Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 was adopted by the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction in January 2018 and endorsed by Heads of State in April 2018. The Strategy is in line with the Sendai Framework and links it to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Arab plan of action on climate change. Accompanied by a programme of work for the period 2018–2020, the Strategy emphasizes the need to better understand disaster risk to tackle risk drivers in the region, and to strategically plan actions to mitigate impact, with a focus on the growing frequency and intensity of drought and flooding events linked to climate change. It also gives guidance on integrating disaster risk reduction throughout development programming.

54. Seven countries[15] have aligned disaster risk reduction strategies with the Sendai Framework, and a further seven[16] are in the process of doing so. Concurrently, United Nations country teams in seven countries have developed United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks that integrate disaster risk reduction and the priorities of the Sendai Framework to provide more coordinated support to countries in adopting a risk-informed approach to sustainable development.

[15] Bahrain, the Comoros, Egypt, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Tunisia.

[16] Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

55. Twenty cities joined the Making Cities Resilient campaign, bringing the total number of cities committed to 350 in the Arab region. Workshops were also conducted in nine cities in Mauritania and Tunisia to develop city resilience action plans based on in-depth local risk assessments and to build institutional capacities to respond to multiple hazards alongside health, food, environmental and economic insecurity.

56. Preparations are under way for the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be hosted in Tunis by the Government of Tunisia and co-organized by the African Union Commission, the League of Arab States and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction from 9 to 13 October 2018. It is the first time that Member States from the Africa and the Arab regions will come together at the same regional platform.

Asia and the Pacific

57. The 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by the Government of Mongolia and jointly organized with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction from 3 to 6 July 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, provided the first opportunity to review the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Guided by the review of progress conducted by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Asia Partnership, key milestones achieved include the establishment of national coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, including national platforms, as well as the integration of disaster risk reduction in medium- and long-term development plans. As of July 2018, six countries[17] have aligned their disaster risk reduction strategies with the Sendai Framework.

58. In the declaration adopted in Ulaanbaatar,[18] member States resolved to implement the action plan for the period 2018–2020 of the Asia Regional Plan, which focuses attention to where greater efforts are needed to achieve the Sendai Framework. To integrate disaster risk reduction into sectoral plans, countries are called upon to facilitate greater collaboration between national disaster risk management authorities and sectoral ministries, including collaboration for the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of data on disaster risk, loss and damage. The decentralization of disaster risk reduction responsibilities, supported by budget allocations, legislation and policies that promote local leadership in planning and implementation, and tools to support local coordination, are also emphasized. Furthermore, countries are encouraged to ensure that disaster risk reduction strategies are backed by investment frameworks, to develop new, and strengthen existing, funding mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and to create an enabling environment for private sector investment in disaster risk reduction. This includes enforcing infrastructure construction regulations and adding disaster risk reduction as a marker for the approval of projects. The action plan also calls for the enhancement of the role of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Development Group Asia-Pacific to support countries in implementing the Sendai Framework. The Government of Australia will host the next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2020.

59. The ESCAP 2017 regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific emphasizes disaster risk reduction and climate change in regional cooperation. Moreover, in October 2017 the ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction decided to enhance coherence in the implementation of multi-hazard early

[17] Australia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Mongolia, Nepal and Viet Nam.

[18] See https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/56219_ulaanbaatardeclarationfinal.pdf.

warning systems, the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and knowledge-sharing across the global development frameworks under the purview of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network.

60. At the subregional level, the joint meeting of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management was convened in Suva, Fiji, by the Pacific Community and the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in October 2017. Member States discussed progress in implementing the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. The meeting underscored the importance of engaging national finance and planning agencies to mainstream disaster and climate risk into planning and budgetary decision-making processes, and of promoting public-private partnerships at all levels, among other things.

61. Coordinated support to Pacific island countries and territories on disaster risk reduction has also been enabled by the multi-country United Nations Pacific Strategy (2018–2022). The Strategy adopts a cross-cutting risk governance approach to mainstream climate and disaster risks through the support provided by the United Nations to countries and territories in the Pacific, including through the integration of risk assessments and adaptation measures into planning processes at all levels.

62. The Government of India and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction jointly organized an international workshop on disaster-resilient infrastructure in January 2018. The workshop addressed best practices on the development of risk assessment methodologies and indicators of sustainability for different infrastructure classes; standards, design and regulation of infrastructure development, operations and maintenance; financing for disaster-resilient infrastructure; and reconstruction and recovery of key infrastructure sectors after disasters.

63. At the national level, during the reporting period nine countries received technical support from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and United Nations partners to review and update their national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework as well as support for its monitoring. Fifty local authorities received support to use the disaster resilience scorecard to assess their resilience and inform the development of local action plans, while a further six cities are in the process of developing integrated climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction action plans.

Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus

64. In Europe, work has continued apace to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework through follow-up of the outcomes and recommendations of the 2017 open forum of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Istanbul, Turkey. For example, the European Science and Technology Advisory Group is taking forward two workstreams identified as priorities for implementing the Sendai Framework in the region, namely, the socioeconomic impacts of disasters and standardizing data.

65. Disaster risk reduction is a priority for the European Union and is now part of its foreign policy through its joint communication on resilience. It is stated in the joint communication that the European Union should more systematically require environmental, climate and disaster risk assessments to identify and prioritize preventive and adaptive measures for risk-informed development investments and territorial and urban planning. During its presidency of the Council of the European Union, Bulgaria prioritized target (e) of the Sendai Framework and initiated a workshop to take stock of progress. The importance of integration with climate change adaptation strategies and coherence across all levels of government, as well

as the need for guidance and tools to develop disaster risk reduction strategies, were highlighted.

66. Progress has also been made to integrate disaster risk reduction into sustainable finance. The European Commission action plan on financing sustainable growth sets out a serious of actions to integrate sustainability into financial decision-making and includes disasters in the environmental and social considerations in investment decision-making for sustainable finance. There was also vocal support for integrating disaster risk as part of financial regulations and risk disclosure standards during a hearing at the European Parliament on disaster risk reduction and financing on 27 February 2018.

67. Disaster risk reduction was a cross-cutting theme of the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, held in March 2018. In particular, discussions on the review of Sustainable Development Goal 11, on sustainable cities, highlighted the importance of reliable data, inclusive participation and disaster risk reduction financing to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Progress is under way for the next European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be hosted by the Government of Italy in Rome from 21 to 23 November 2018 and will provide further opportunities to explore these issues and others.

68. The second Central Asia and South Caucasus subregional platform for disaster risk reduction was held on 26 and 27 June 2018 in Yerevan, and was hosted by the Government of Armenia and jointly organized with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Member States reviewed progress against the plan of action of the declaration adopted in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in 2016 on disaster risk reduction for resilience-building. The declaration subsequently adopted in Yerevan[19] highlights pertinent challenges to disaster risk reduction in the region, such as the rising risk of economic losses, risks from technological hazards and the impact of small-scale, slow-onset and recurring disasters, combined with low penetration of risk reduction mechanisms for the poor and most vulnerable. To that end, Member States committed to strengthen regional cooperation, promote the localization of disaster risk assessments and modelling, invest further in disaster risk reduction and make disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for land use, urban planning, infrastructure and housing investments.

69. Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework, 32 countries have conducted national risk assessments to provide data and information to guide the development of national disaster risk reduction strategies. Fourteen countries[20] have developed disaster risk reduction strategies that are aligned with the Sendai Framework and four countries[21] are in the process of doing so as of July 2018. With support from the European Commission, capacity-building at the local level was also strengthened, including through hazard risk vulnerability assessments for municipalities and city-to-city peer reviews. The United Nations system is also supporting coordination and coherence on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development through six new United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in the region.

[19] See https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57668_finalyerevandeclarationeng26.06.181.pdf.

[20] Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[21] Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and Turkey.

IV. Catalysing the actions of stakeholders and global advocacy on disaster risk reduction

70. While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and all stakeholders. The United Nations system has an important role to play to support the scale and diversity of partnerships needed to meet the requirements of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda. It can also galvanize the broader public to play their role in disaster risk reduction and sustainable development through public advocacy and communications.

A. Partnerships

71. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction facilitated the establishment of a "Sendai stakeholder group" in February 2018 under the stakeholder engagement mechanism for major groups and other stakeholders of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The stakeholder group aims to maximize the collective impact of partnerships in promoting disaster risk reduction in deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum and other intergovernmental discussions related to sustainable development.

72. The World Council on City Data and the International Organization for Standardization, with technical support from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, is developing ISO 37123 for resilient cities. The standard will support priorities for investment and action on disaster risk reduction and resilience and is expected to be published in 2019.

73. To support the implementation of the Sendai Framework science and technology road map, the global science and technology advisory group of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has been enhanced in terms of its scope and resources. This includes the establishment of a science and technology partnership and regional scientific and technological advisory groups. The focus is on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration, enhancing the role and engagement of young people in science and technology and bridging the science-policy gap. Specific attention is placed on the economic case for disaster risk reduction, data collection, risk mapping and analysis, and the linking of indigenous knowledge, science and technology.

74. Engagement with the private sector on disaster risk reduction was further strengthened with the launch of new national networks of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Alliance for Disaster-resilient Societies (ARISE) in Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and the United States of America. In the Philippines, partnership between ARISE Philippines, the Government and the Manila Observatory resulted in the establishment of the National Resilience Council, which promotes risk-sensitive investments at the local level, particularly in urban areas.

75. The second International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management was hosted by the Government of Bangladesh in Dhaka in May 2018. The Dhaka Declaration 2015+ outlines specific actions to strengthen engagement in local, national and regional multi-stakeholder platforms and intergovernmental initiatives to implement the Sendai Framework for persons living with disabilities and the establishment of effective mechanisms and guidelines as an input to the Sendai Framework monitor to inform disaster risk reduction policy and practice.

76. An online platform for voluntary commitments by all stakeholders to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework is currently under development.

Building on the voluntary commitments announced before, during and after the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in 2015, the platform is a vehicle to monitor progress, share good practice and ensure that voluntary commitments are aligned with and contribute to the implementation of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. A synthesis and analysis report on the voluntary commitments for the Sendai Framework will be launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2019.

77. The International Recovery Platform is an international mechanism for sharing experience and lessons on building back better to support the achievement of priority 4 of the Sendai Framework. At the International Recovery Forum, held in January 2018 in Kobe, Japan, participants shared innovative approaches from past experience on how to achieve resilience by building back better. As agreed at the previous meeting of its steering committee, the strategic framework of the International Recovery Platform will be reviewed to assess progress and determine capacity requirements.

B. Advocacy

78. With a specific focus on reducing urban risk to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11, the Sendai Framework global targets and the objectives of the New Urban Agenda, the Making Cities Resilient campaign continues, with over 3,800 cities and local governments having joined to date. The campaign has developed the disaster resilience scorecard for cities, which allows local governments to assess their disaster resilience and to monitor and review progress and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

79. With support from the Government of Japan, World Tsunami Awareness Day in 2017 was marked on 5 November with events around the world to raise awareness of tsunami risks and ways to reduce them. Events focused on the "last mile" of the tsunami early warning chain to ensure that at-risk communities receive timely warnings and know the actions they need to take. Events showcased the North-East Atlantic, Mediterranean and connected seas "Wave 17" tsunami response simulation exercise conducted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, promoted the World Tsunami Awareness Day high school student summit, held in Okinawa, Japan, and highlighted the regional tsunami awareness programme implemented by UNDP in 81 schools across 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

80. Continuing the "Sendai Seven Campaign: Seven Targets, Seven Years", the International Day for Disaster Reduction, held on 13 October, focused in 2017 on target (b) of the Sendai Framework, to substantially reduce the number of people affected by disasters globally. Under the slogan "home safe home", events around the world focused on the safety of the home and the workplace, and a social media campaign reached 23.6 million people.

V. Effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon

81. El Niño and La Niña, the two phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation, typically occur every three to seven years, with significant effects on weather patterns across the world. For the second half of 2018, the continuation of the El Niño Southern Oscillation at a neutral level is considered to be the most likely scenario.[22]

[22] World Meteorological Organization, "El Niño/La Niña update", March 2018.

During neutral El Niño and La Niña years, it is critical to prepare for, build resilience to and reduce the risks of the next event.

82. The United Nations support to countries affected by the El Niño Southern Oscillation is guided by "Preventing El Niño Southern Oscillation episodes from becoming disasters: a Blueprint for Action". The Blueprint for Action is a tool to support integrated, nationally led and equity-driven plans to prepare for the El Niño Southern Oscillation and other climate hazards, absorbing risks without jeopardizing development gains and informing climate-smart development plans to reduce risk. An inter-agency working group committee co-chaired by UNDP, FAO and WMO Principals has been established to support the implementation of the Blueprint for Action and the inter-agency standard operating procedures for early action to El Niño and La Niña episodes, which were issued by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in March 2018. The standard operating procedures outline development and humanitarian actions by the international system to initiate early action to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather and disease outbreaks caused by El Niño Southern Oscillation episodes. They highlight who needs to act, when and how as soon as there are warning signs of a possible occurrence.

83. The UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa worked with members of the Southern Africa Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee to support the Southern African Development Committee in preparedness for response and early actions to mitigate the impacts of the El Niño Southern Oscillation in 2017. This included reviewing the response and sharing lessons learned from the 2015/16 El Niño-induced droughts, strengthening forecasting and capacities for the provision of climate services and providing support to develop regional and national contingency and coordination plans. Lessons learned during the 2015/16 El Niño event were also documented in Asia and the Pacific in a joint effort by UNDP, ESCAP, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum Climate Centre. The subsequent report proposes a six-step approach to strengthen regional coordination and collaboration between agencies and national Governments across the disaster cycle from forecasting and risk management to humanitarian support and post-event recovery. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs is working with FAO, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Central American Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention, the Central American Agricultural Council and government agencies in Central America and the Caribbean to strengthen early warning for drought triggered by El Niño using satellite observations.

84. The 2015/16 El Niño event was devastating for many countries. Combined with the impacts of climate change, it took many lives and brought significant economic losses, setting back communities and countries on their path towards sustainable development. This cannot happen time and time again. As their occurrence can be predicted, resilience must be built and the risks reduced to protect development gains.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

85. The rising economic costs and the persistent social and human impacts of disasters continue to hold the most vulnerable people and the poorest countries behind on the path towards sustainable development. Determined and persistent action is required to reduce existing disaster risk, avoid the creation of new risks and address social and economic vulnerabilities that expose the world's poor to disasters.

A recognition of the current relationship between hazards, climate change, economic growth, poverty and inequality is critical to ensure that no one is left behind.

86. Three years since its adoption, the Sendai Framework is yielding positive results. Several countries have or are in the process of developing new, or are aligning existing, national disaster risk reduction strategies with the Sendai Framework, which is a requisite for risk-informed sustainable development. With a little over two years until the 2020 deadline given for target (e) of the Sendai Framework, the current pace of action should be accelerated. Greater attention is also needed on the development and implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies. It is critical that disaster risk reduction strategies be integrated within sustainable development strategies and climate change adaptation plans to ensure a risk-informed approach to sustainable development.

87. Strengthened multi-hazard data collection and risk analysis are required in many regions to ensure that disaster risk reduction strategies and policies are evidence-based and context-specific. Capacity development and technical support are also needed to ensure that data are disaggregated to support strategies that are fully inclusive and gender-responsive.

88. The engagement of stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local levels is critical to achieve the objectives of the Sendai Framework. Enhanced efforts are needed to ensure the systematic inclusion and active participation of all stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction strategies, including persons living with disabilities, women and girls, elderly persons and the poorest and most marginalized communities.

89. In 2019, the Secretary-General will hold a climate summit, the objectives of which will include increasing the ambition of Member States and key non-party stakeholders with regard to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Member States will also review progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019, under the auspices of the General Assembly. This will be a significant opportunity to assess the extent to which the Goals are being implemented in a risk-informed manner and to position disaster risk reduction at the centre of the implementation and review of the Goals over the next four-year cycle. At the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2019, recommendations will be made on where further focus is needed to guide national policymakers and the deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum in 2019, as well as the review of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the midterm review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, among other things.

90. A comprehensive overview of progress towards the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction targets of the Sustainable Development Goals will be vital to guide discussions at the high-level political forum and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2019. To that end, it is essential that countries report through the Sendai Framework monitor by October 2018 and that national Sendai Framework focal points be engaged in national sustainable development mechanisms and the voluntary national review process.

91. Financing for disaster risk reduction requires greater attention from the international community and national Governments. International financial institutions, regional development banks and the United Nations system need to work together to develop innovative financial instruments for disaster risk reduction and to support national Governments in resource mobilization for disaster risk reduction. Greater engagement with the private sector, both domestically and internationally, is necessary to create incentives and regulations for risk-informed investment and construction practices.

92. The scale of disaster risk reduction requires adequate means of implementation through strengthened modalities of international cooperation and global partnership. To that end, the potential of South-South cooperation for disaster risk reduction should be further leveraged. Progress has been made in integrating a risk-informed approach in the support provided by multilateral and bilateral donors, and should be further expanded.

93. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and its United Nations partners play a central role in providing technical support to countries to implement and monitor the Sendai Framework and to support a risk-informed approach to sustainable development. The United Nations system must fulfil the commitments made in the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, which represent a significant contribution to the reform of the United Nations development system and can support countries to translate integrated global and regional policy frameworks into multisectoral programmes at the national level. The United Nations trust fund for disaster reduction is the instrument to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework and requires an increase in the volume as well as the further predictability and timeliness of funding.

94. **It is recommended that:**

(a) **States, with increased technical and capacity-building support from the United Nations system and other stakeholders guided by the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, continue to prioritize and resource the development of inclusive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 and to promote their alignment and integration with sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies and related financing frameworks;**

(b) **States, with coordinated support from the United Nations system, continue efforts to create or enhance systems to record disaster losses and to establish baselines as reference points for measuring improvements, underpinned by data that are disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability;**

(c) **States utilize the online Sendai Framework monitor to track progress against the global targets of the Sendai Framework, the disaster risk reduction targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and national disaster risk reduction targets;**

(d) **States include preparing for and reducing the risk of El Niño events in multi-hazard national and local disaster risk reduction strategies;**

(e) **States take into account disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the preparatory process for and deliberations of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant global reviews in 2019, including through the inclusion of national Sendai Framework focal points in the voluntary national review process, and take disaster risk reduction into account in the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals over the following four years;**

(f) **States actively engage in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019, with participation across sectors and ministries at the highest level possible, as well as the upcoming regional platforms for disaster risk reduction;**

(g) **International financial institutions, regional development banks and the United Nations system develop disaster risk reduction financing mechanisms to support the implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies,**

encourage national resource mobilization and incentivize risk-informed public and private investments;

(h) States enhance international cooperation, global partnerships and the provision of means of implementation to support the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and, in that context, ensure that bilateral and multilateral development assistance are risk-informed;

(i) States consider augmenting their financial contributions to the United Nations trust fund for disaster reduction, as well as regular budget support for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to support the efforts of Member States to manage and reduce their disaster risk and implement the Sendai Framework;

(j) Stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, civil society organizations and the media, with their knowledge, experience and resources, proactively engage Governments at the national, subnational and local levels in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and integrate disaster risk reduction in their own policies and programmes, thus contributing to the achievement of risk-informed sustainable development.

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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: sixteenth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/320, coincides with the third year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, the strategic vision for transformative development in Africa, and its first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023), African countries, with the support of regional and subregional institutions, continued to mainstream the priorities of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in their national development frameworks. Countries continued to make progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. One of the most significant results during the reporting period was the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area, in Kigali in March 2018. This provided a major impetus to continental integration and the realization of the African Union vision of an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa.

The improving global economic environment, especially the rebound in trade, combined with sound economic policy management in African countries, contributed to growth acceleration of 3.6 per cent in 2017. Official development assistance to Africa declined marginally in 2016. This trend, if not reversed, may negatively affect the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in least developed countries in Africa, where official flows remain an important source of development funding. African countries continued to implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development in several key areas, including infrastructure, agriculture and gender mainstreaming. The African Peer Review Mechanism continued to enjoy growing widespread recognition as an instrument for promoting good governance, as demonstrated by the accession of an increasing number of African countries to the Mechanism. A key policy concern across Africa, however, is the high level of debt. Excessive borrowing can lead to debt distress, potentially choking growth and

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development. This threatens to undermine hard-won socioeconomic gains in debt reduction that were previously achieved through international debt relief efforts. Addressing this, in addition to the existing challenges that are critical for structural transformation to create jobs through promoting industrialization, investing in agriculture and developing agricultural value chains, must be a top priority for African Governments.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/320, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly. The present report is submitted pursuant to that resolution.

2. The report highlights policy measures taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as well as the complementary measures implemented by the international community, including support provided by the United Nations system during the past year. Where data allow, activities undertaken by the private sector and civil society organizations in support of NEPAD are also highlighted. The report benefited from information provided by Member States, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the African Union, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, the regional economic communities, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), members of the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs and other subregional and regional African stakeholders.

II. Action taken by African countries and organizations

3. Since its adoption in 2001 by African Heads of State and Government, NEPAD has served as an African-owned and -led framework for the continent's socioeconomic transformation. Despite the progress made in economic and social development over the past several years, persistent and emerging challenges remain which, if not addressed, will undermine progress towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

4. Agenda 2063, adopted at the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in 2015, includes all of the priorities of NEPAD. Following the adoption of the Agenda, the African Union adopted the first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) for Agenda 2063, which comprises the following programmes and projects: the Grand Inga Dam project; an integrated high-speed train network; an African virtual and e-university; the formulation of a commodities strategy; the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area by 2017; a pan-African passport and the free movement of people; the establishment of a single African air transport market; the establishment of an African financial institution; the "Silencing the Guns by 2020" initiative; a pan-African e-network; and an Africa outer space strategy.

5. The NEPAD Agency, as the technical arm of the African Union, in coordination with other structures of the Union and with regional economic communities, is focusing efforts on the implementation of these programmes by supporting African countries in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating their implementation. The Agency is working to strengthen capacities at the national, regional and continental levels to coordinate the implementation of these agendas. At the thirty-first session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in July 2018, member States approved the establishment of the African Union Development Agency as the technical body of the Union, and noted that the transition from the NEPAD Agency to the African Union Development Agency would be undertaken as part of its establishment.

6. During the reporting period there was significant progress in two of the priorities of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan, with the signing of the Agreement to establish a Single African Air Transport Market and the

establishment, in March 2018, of the African Continental Free Trade Area. There has been continued progress since the signing of the Agreement. According to the Economic Commission for Africa,[1] it is expected that the value of intra-African trade will more than double thanks to the African Continental Free Trade Area.

A. Infrastructure

7. Infrastructure is an enabler for the continent's industrialization and regional integration, the latter being the guiding vision for the African Continental Free Trade Area. New research by AfDB shows that Africa would require between $130 billion and $170 billion per annum in infrastructure investment to bring its infrastructure development to the level of developing countries elsewhere. However, in a joint report by AfDB, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank it was estimated that the projects currently under way amounted to only 5 per cent of total investment needs and 12 per cent of actual financial flows.

8. To address this shortfall, the Continental Business Network of the NEPAD Agency launched the 5% Agenda initiative at the New York Stock Exchange in September 2017 on the sidelines of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, calling for institutional investors to increase from 1.5 per cent to 5 per cent the share of assets under management allocated to African infrastructure projects. An associated road map has also been developed to facilitate investments from African pension funds and sovereign wealth funds in infrastructure projects on the continent.

9. In order to support the implementation of the 5% Agenda, certain projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, including the Batoka Gorge hydroelectric scheme, the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya interconnector, the Beira-Harare toll road as part of the North-South Corridor project and the Ruzizi III hydroelectric power station, will be fast-tracked. To facilitate the implementation of the Batoka Gorge project, the NEPAD Agency and the Southern African Development Community provided capacity-building and financial support to the Zambezi River Authority, including $9.26 million through the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility for project preparation. Construction of the Ruzizi III power station began in 2017, making it the first regional power project in Africa established as a public-private partnership.

10. Of the 433 priority action plan projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, 26 per cent are at the feasibility or pre-feasibility stage, 16 per cent are being restructured for tendering and 32 per cent are either operational or under construction. In 2017 the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Management Authority was established as the first transnational project management authority in Africa.

11. In 2017 another flagship project of Agenda 2063, the African Integrated High-Speed Railway Network, which is aimed at interconnecting all African capitals, was commissioned, the NEPAD Agency hosting the project implementation unit and taking a lead in the technical feasibility and bankability studies.

12. The Inga III hydropower project, which is both a priority action plan project of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063, is expected to generate more than 10,000 MW of electricity in Africa for the first time. Power-purchasing agreements between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Africa have already been signed. A consortium of

[1] Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission and African Development Bank, *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa VIII: Bringing the Continental Free Trade Area About* (2017).

international partners is currently working on financing the project, which has an estimated initial cost of $12 billion.

13. Progress in the implementation of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative continued in 2017. The regional optic fibre project connecting five of the capitals of the States members of the East African Community was completed. Furthermore, the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative in Namibia, the Namibia Logistics Hub, was endorsed by the Ministerial Working Group and subsequently by the Chair of the Initiative. As part of the Missing Links on the Trans-Sahara Highway project, Algeria completed the construction of 1,600 km of highway, leaving only 200 km to be completed in southern Algeria. Under the Lamu Port-Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor project, which connects Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan, construction of the Isiolo-Moyale road (505 km) was completed, and the construction of ports and berths is under way.

B. Agriculture and food security

14. Agriculture and food security are key pillars of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063, "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development", calls for a radical transformation of African agriculture to enable the continent to feed itself and be a major player as a net food exporter. Similarly, the 2030 Agenda is aimed at transforming agriculture as part of Sustainable Development Goal 2.

15. During the reporting period, African countries continued to make progress towards the implementation of commitments relating to agricultural development and food security, including the commitments, set out in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, to allocate at least 10 per cent of the national budget to agriculture and achieve a 6 per cent annual growth rate in agricultural productivity. According to the latest available data, as of December 2017, of the 47 member States that reported progress in implementing the Malabo Declaration, only 20 were on track to achieve the commitments by 2025.

16. The NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, prepared a biennial report in which it highlighted progress in the implementation of commitments enshrined in the Malabo Declaration. The report was a concerted effort by the Agency to prepare the results framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme to guide countries in data collection and analysis and to equip them with the requisite skills and competencies for tracking and reporting on the implementation of the Programme.

17. Progress also continued in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme at the regional level, and countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) developed a new generation of National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans aimed at supporting the achievement of the commitments of the Malabo Declaration, which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. In East Africa four countries have developed and launched national agriculture and food security investment plans, while two countries in Southern Africa have completed the process.

18. The NEPAD Africa Resilience Coordination Hub, the implementation vehicle for agriculture and food insecurity risk management, was established through a partnership with the World Food Programme and Periperi U, a partnership of 12 African universities. The hub will contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 8 and commitments 3, 4 and 6 of the Malabo Declaration, as well as achieving

the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063. Further progress towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme is hampered by limited progress in mainstreaming the Malabo Declaration in national agriculture investment plans.

C. Health

19. Health is one of the key pillars of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. Improved health outcomes are included in aspiration 1, goal 3 (healthy and well-nourished citizens), and aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 (people-driven development). Similarly, Sustainable Development Goal 3 provides for a strong political commitment to public health: "To promote physical and mental health and well-being, and to extend life expectancy for all, we must achieve universal health coverage and access to quality health care".

20. During the reporting period, the NEPAD Agency continued to support efforts to advance the policy decisions adopted by African countries to improve the health and well-being of Africans. The NEPAD Agency organized a series of consultative meetings with experts in the fields of law and medicine regulation from 33 countries. Following consultations with legal and regulatory experts, the NEPAD Agency facilitated the preparation of a draft treaty to establish the African Medicines Agency for endorsement by African Union policy organs.

21. The Agency also supported efforts by African Governments, regional economic communities, the private sector and civil society to tackle tuberculosis as a national and regional challenge, with the goal of eradicating the scourge by 2030. This was done mainly through conducting public awareness campaigns and preparing policy and technical materials during the commemoration by the African Union in March 2017 of World Tuberculosis Day on the theme "United and renewed action to end tuberculosis". The NEPAD Agency has supported trials in laboratories using gene drive technologies to effectively modify Anopheles mosquito populations.

22. Following the adoption of harmonized regulatory standards for medical products under the African medicine regulatory harmonization programme in 2015, a regional regulatory framework for ECOWAS was agreed upon and capacities were strengthened to enforce the supply and distribution of safe medicines in the region. In collaboration with its partner organizations, the ECOWAS secretariat, with support from the NEPAD Agency, began to implement medicine regulatory harmonization in the region across all 15 States members of ECOWAS The NEPAD Agency provided assistance in developing a framework for tracking, monitoring and reporting the manufacture, import, export and distribution of medicines, which was formally endorsed in September 2017 by ECOWAS. The framework was also piloted in five of the States members of the East African Community and will be rolled out in other regional economic communities in the foreseeable future.

23. Through the assistance of the NEPAD Agency, 12 of the 55 countries have either reviewed or are in the process of reviewing their national laws on medicine regulation in line with the African Union model law. The NEPAD Agency was a key player in implementing the Southern Africa Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support project. As a result of this support, centres of excellence were established for tuberculosis control in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.

D. Education and training

24. Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education is aligned with aspiration 1, goal 2, of Agenda 2063 on education and innovation. Quality education contributes to long-term sustainable development by enabling people to reach their potential. It has been proved to be the most effective weapon against poverty.

25. During the reporting period, the NEPAD Agency continued to support national and regional efforts aimed at strengthening human capital development through education and training. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the African Union adopted the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016–2025 at the session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2016 as the framework for transforming education and training systems to support sustainable development and as an innovative programme to turn secondary schools in Africa into digital schools of distinction and designed to develop the acquisition of skills to match labour market demands. The programme is also designed to promote the use of information and communications technology in teaching. Active directory services interfaces programmes have been launched in several countries including Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

26. The African Science Academy, a boarding school for young women with an outstanding mathematics and science potential, was inaugurated in Ghana in February 2017. The Academy is a new, girls-only, advanced-level school for mathematics and science. It is a pathway to undergraduate study and future careers, including in engineering, science and computing. The institution currently has 24 students from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda who have full scholarships from the Academy that cover their tuition, boarding and other expenses.

27. The NEPAD Agency continued to support efforts by countries to achieve gender parity in education. During the reporting period, the Agency supported initiatives aimed at promoting access to education for girls in 23 countries. As a result, 125,000 women were trained in management and entrepreneurship for small or medium-sized enterprises. In Ethiopia 1,100 girls who had previously dropped out of school were re-enrolled and continued their education, supported by a network of 51 mentors. Two hostels were constructed and equipped for girls attending vocational training courses in Malawi.

28. Owing to increased public policies focused on education, Africa has experienced a significant increase in the rate of student enrolment in primary schools, the number rising from 109 million to 187 million children between 2000 and 2016.[2]

29. The challenge of a skills shortage and a mismatch in the labour market is persistent. In most countries employers grapple with the challenges of finding skilled workers, while at the same time university graduates find it increasingly difficult to find jobs that correspond to their qualifications.

E. Environment and tourism

30. Owing to the continent's vulnerability to climate change, environmental sustainability is an important priority for Africa. In this regard, the NEPAD Agency continued to provide support to African countries in implementing policies aimed at strengthening the resilience of African countries to climate change.

[2] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics, available at data.uis.unesco.org.

31. During the reporting period, the unified position of Africa in global conventions on climate change and environmental resilience was strengthened in line with aspiration 1, goal 7, of Agenda 2063, which is aimed at achieving environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities. The NEPAD Agency supported the participation of the African Group of Negotiators in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the participation of policymakers at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

32. Over the past year the NEPAD Agency strengthened the capacity of 7,000 African women to promote environmental sustainability and resilience. For example, women took the lead in the domestication of eru, a staple food in Cameroon and neighbouring countries, and actively participated in the reforestation of the Volcanoes National Park and the promotion of ecotourism in Rwanda.

33. In September 2017, 24 African countries met in the Niger for the second annual partnership meeting of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative. The initiative, of which the NEPAD Agency acts as the secretariat, is aimed at restoring 100 million ha of deforested and degraded land across the continent by 2030.

34. Since improving fisheries management is an important opportunity for increasing revenues, generating income and improving food security and nutrition, the NEPAD Agency supported capacity development for access to fisheries markets in the Gulf of Guinea region, including training on eco-labelling principles, certification procedures, and standards and regulations for the sustainability of and trade in fish resources.

35. The NEPAD Agency also provided technical support for the integration of climate change and climate-smart agriculture in national agriculture investment plans for the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, following which the Governments of those countries developed and submitted concept notes for the Green Climate Fund. Additional support will be provided to countries in developing concept notes and proposals to access funds from various international climate-financing outlets.

36. In the light of the importance of the tourism sector in Africa's development, the NEPAD Agency continued to support countries in promoting sustainable tourism with a view to maximizing its contribution to development and poverty reduction. Since 85 per cent of the African tourism market depends on air transport, the launch of the Single African Air Transport Market initiative by the African Union in January 2018 to open up the skies above Africa and improve intra-African air connectivity was a particularly welcome development. The initiative will facilitate implementation of the tourism goals set out in the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063.

F. Information and communications technology

37. Information and communications technology has been recognized as having the potential to transform businesses in Africa and drive entrepreneurship, innovation, economic growth and sustainable development across the continent. Agenda 2063 has prioritized the application of information and communications technology in agriculture, climate change adaptation, education, financial services, health, regional trade and integration.

38. The NEPAD e-Africa Programme continued to facilitate an integrated e-economy in Africa by working with Governments to ensure that businesses and citizens have greater access to reliable and affordable information and communications technology networks. In particular, through the information and communications technology strategy of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa,[3] the

[3] Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa priority action plan for the period to 2020.

NEPAD Agency supported countries in developing national master plans for digital development. It is estimated that a 10 per cent increase in broadband penetration will result in a 1–2 per cent increase in the gross domestic product (GDP).

39. With the support of the NEPAD Agency, the fourth Transform Africa Summit was held in May 2018 on the theme "Accelerating Africa's single digital market". The summit followed three earlier editions, culminating in the launch in 2017 of the African smart cities initiative, which is aimed at leveraging technology solutions to improve efficiency in the delivery of city services. At the 2018 summit the first-ever Transform Africa Economic Forum was convened, facilitating Government-to-business engagements, which resulted in stronger public-private partnerships and agreements to increase investments in information and communications technology across the continent.

G. Science, technology and innovation

40. Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda recognize science, technology and innovation as important enablers for achieving sustainable development. The work of the NEPAD Agency in this area is focused on building the capacity of African countries with regard to science, technology and innovation, including in designing policies and promoting an enabling policy and regulatory environment for new technologies.

41. The work of the NEPAD Agency with regard to science, technology and innovation is guided by the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024. The strategy is aimed at accelerating the transition of Africa to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy in line with the vision of the African Union. The NEPAD Agency implemented various programmes as part of its science, technology and innovation efforts to meet the objectives of the strategy, thereby contributing to attaining the goals of Agenda 2063.

42. The Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa is one of the NEPAD programmes that forms a pan-African platform aimed at championing the development of research for health capabilities and represents a new model that seeks to support the development of research leadership and promote scientific excellence and innovation to address some of the developmental challenges in Africa.

43. The NEPAD Agency continued to implement the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators initiative, which is aimed at building the capacity of African countries to collect and analyse science, technology and innovation indicators to support evidenced-based policy formulation and research agendas that address economic and social challenges. The implementation of phases I and II of the initiative focused on data collection and capacity-building for 35 countries to collect data on research and development and for 11 countries to collect data on innovation. In addition, two African Innovation Outlooks were published, as well as policy briefs and research papers that contributed to developing capacities for policy formulation with regard to science, technology and innovation.

44. In addition, the NEPAD Agency facilitated the improvement of science, technology and innovation data systems in Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana and Seychelles. This was done through training and in-country capacity-strengthening on the use of new and innovative data collection tools, data analysis, storage and dissemination.

45. Furthermore, the NEPAD Agency and the United Nations University jointly conducted a study entitled Innovation in Africa: Measurement, Policy and Global Issues, which helped to increase knowledge of factors that influence the emergence of innovation strategies in Africa.

46. The Africa Kaizen Initiative was launched by the NEPAD Agency and the Japan International Cooperation Agency in 2017. It continued to provide training on the adoption of innovation methods to boost productivity. During the reporting period, 125 participants from 13 African countries benefited from the training. Seven projects are being implemented under the Initiative in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, and one project was completed in Egypt.

H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and participation of civil society

47. Gender equality and women's empowerment are central to sustainable development. Sustainable Development Goal 5 and aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 both seek to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The NEPAD Agency continued its efforts to support the implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment at the national, regional and subregional levels. The NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment, a partnership between the NEPAD Agency and the Government of Spain through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, has empowered a total of 530,000 women and young people through business and vocational skills training. In this regard, the creation of business incubation units and product certification, including barcoding, led to an increase in agricultural productivity, thereby boosting women's incomes.

48. Furthermore, the NEPAD Agency provided support to 90 civil society organizations and grassroots organizations to strengthen their capacity in gender mainstreaming and to enable them to better advocate for women's issues, particularly gender equality and women's empowerment. In Nigeria a gender protection network was formed to monitor accountability for gender equality and service delivery for women. Thanks to these efforts, African countries continued to make progress in this area. For example, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa was incorporated into national legislation and implemented in 24 countries[4] and ratified in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Zimbabwe. A fund was established in Malawi to provide legal support to girls who were victims of rape in schools.

49. However, several challenges remain as culture and norms continue to create major obstacles to women's empowerment in Africa. At the structural level, weak infrastructure and law enforcement and poor-quality public services pose major challenges to women's empowerment and progress on gender equality.

I. African Peer Review Mechanism

50. Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda have both recognized good governance as an important enabler for growth and sustainable development. The African Peer Review Mechanism is a mutually agreed self-monitoring instrument established by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in 2003 to strengthen governance and sustainable development in the areas of democracy and political governance, economic governance and management, corporate governance and socioeconomic development.

[4] Angola, Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Togo and Zimbabwe.

51. During the reporting period, the Mechanism made progress in its revitalization efforts, including strengthening its secretariat. The Mechanism promoted good governance in Africa. As of July 2018, 37 States members of the African Union had joined the African Peer Review Mechanism. The secretariat of the Mechanism continued to provide support for the implementation of commitments with regard to governance in all its dimensions. Considerable efforts continued to be made in promoting civil society engagement in the implementation of the Mechanism.[5]

52. As of July 2018, the African Peer Review Mechanism had completed governance reviews of 21 countries, the first review of the Sudan and the second review of Uganda being completed at its most recent summit in January 2018. In June 2018 the Mechanism began a project to deepen its reviews, including through country self-assessments and external review processes on the basis of which the final review report and the national programme of action are produced. The Mechanism also began to engage with academic institutions in order to reinforce African governance and the knowledge base for the Mechanism and to enrich continental research capabilities.

53. A key milestone for the Mechanism was the provisional adoption of a statute by the African Peer Review Forum held in August 2016, which allowed the Mechanism, for the first time in its history, to be firmly grounded on a clear legal instrument. Also in August 2016, the strategic plan for the period 2016–2020 was adopted by the Forum. The strategic plan is based on a three-pronged revitalization programme of restoration, reinvigoration and renewal of the Mechanism. The plan is aimed at consolidating the gains from a decade and a half of reviews by the Mechanism and draws inspiration from its founding vision and mission, values and guiding principles. The plan also considered key continental and global initiatives such as the shared values agenda of the African Union, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

54. In January 2017[6] the African Union welcomed the commitment of the African Peer Review Forum on the repositioning of the African Peer Review Mechanism to play a monitoring and evaluation role for Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will entail, among other things, incorporating various governance reports from the African Governance Architecture platform and other African Union organs in the Annual Governance Report of the African Union, as well as providing country-specific governance briefings and access to scientifically credible and politically legitimate knowledge products on governance in Africa.

55. The African Peer Review Mechanism also continued to refine its research and operational tools. In March 2018 it hosted the second Annual Methodology Forum, which was attended by members of the African Peer Review Mechanism community, governance experts, collaborating stakeholders, including partners of the Mechanism, and selected government officials and non-State representatives. The purpose of the forum was to review and enrich the methodology of the Mechanism and related processes with its consultative and reference groups.

III. Response of the international community: building on the momentum of the international community's support for Africa's development

56. African countries are integrated, albeit at different levels, in the global economy through trade, finance and investment. Thus, global economic conditions have a considerable bearing on the performance of African economies and thereby considerably

[5] See A/73/273-S/2018/566.

[6] See decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631(XXVIII) of the African Union on the revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism, dated January 2017.

influence the pace of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. During the reporting period, the global economic situation improved slightly: global GDP growth rose to 3.0 per cent in 2017, up from 2.4 per cent in 2016.[7] This was the strongest growth in nearly six years, underpinned by a rebound in global trade and a strong recovery in investment in advanced economies. Modest increases in investments in some commodity-exporting and emerging countries also contributed to the strengthening of the global economy, as did the rebound in global trade following two years of decline.

57. All these factors significantly influenced economic performance in Africa, where GDP growth rose from 1.7 per cent in 2016 to 3.0 per cent in 2017. Despite good economic performance, growth remains considerably below the level required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the goals of Agenda 2063.

58. At the summit of the Group of Seven in June 2018, the Group reaffirmed its commitments to official development assistance. The full implementation of the commitments to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national income to African countries and 0.15 per cent of gross national income to the least developed countries, as well as additional commitments previously made at the summit of the Group of Eight in July 2005, will provide much-needed resources for African countries to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. At the summit of the Group of Seven, the Group also reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen the capacity of Africa to resolve conflict on the continent.

59. At the Group of 20 summit in July 2017, the G-20 Africa Partnership was launched, with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the G20 and Africa on sustainable economic development, with Agenda 2063 as the guiding framework. The G20 Africa Partnership provides a framework for G20 initiatives on investment promotion, the increased use of renewable energy, rural youth employment, digital education for girls and women and fair taxation.

60. The Compact with Africa is a core element of the G-20 Africa Partnership and consists of tailored investment, or compacts, with interested African countries. The objective is to improve conditions for private investment in Africa, which is crucial for sustainable economic development. As of December 2017, 10 African countries had joined the initiative: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal and Tunisia.

61. The G-20 Africa Partnership is committed to expanding sustainable energy infrastructure and is supporting the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative of the African Union, which is aimed at increasing the supply of and access to renewable energy. The Government of Germany announced that it would contribute €3 billion in support of the objectives of the Initiative in the period up to 2020. The funding committed so far is being used to install the capacity to generate 2.5 GW of renewable power, the equivalent of three coal-fired power stations.

A. Official development assistance

62. According to the latest available data from OECD,[8] official development assistance (ODA) reached $146.6 billion in 2017, representing a slight decrease of 0.6 per cent in real terms compared with 2016 (see figure).

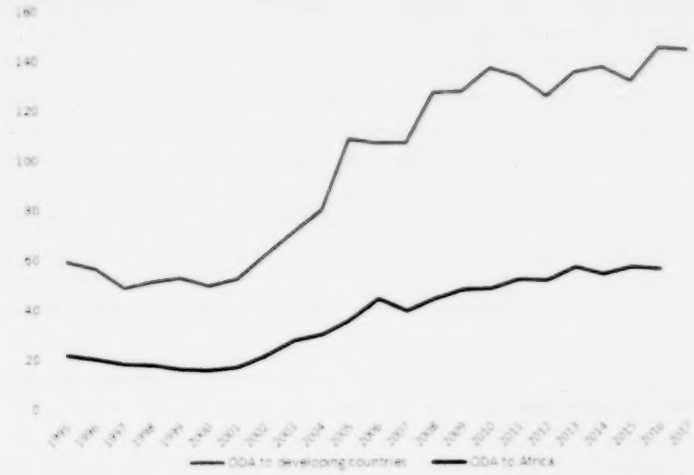
[7] See *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2018* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.II.C.2).

[8] See www.oecd.org/development/development-aid-stable-in-2017-with-more-sent-to-poorestcountries.htm.

63. ODA data for Africa for 2017 were not available at the time of reporting. The most recent ODA data for Africa available from OECD show ODA for Africa decreasing from $56.1 billion in 2015 to $55.7 billion in 2016, representing a decrease of 1.3 per cent. This is likely to affect the capacity of African countries,[9] especially the least developed countries, to implement their development agendas. However, preliminary estimates for bilateral ODA for Africa show a marginal increase of 3 per cent to $29 billion.

Total official development assistance from all donors

(Billions of United States dollars)



Source: Online database of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, 2018.

64. In 2017, total net ODA as a percentage of the gross national income of the member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee averaged 0.31 per cent, down from the 0.32 per cent recorded in 2016. This is considerably below the 0.7 target set by the United Nations and reaffirmed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

65. Only five of the member countries of the Development Assistance Committee met the 0.7 per cent target for ODA/gross national income: Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island. Total ODA data flows to Africa in 2017 were not available at the time of reporting.

66. ODA flows to the least developed countries increased by 4 per cent in 2017 to $26 billion, indicating a reversal of the downward trend that had characterized ODA flows to the least developed countries in recent years.

67. There has been some progress in improving aid effectiveness. According to the 2018 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, the share of tied aid continued to decline, from 22 per cent in 2015 to 19 per cent in 2016. The report also highlighted progress in increasing the transparency of development cooperation, particularly in recording development cooperation in national budgets submitted for parliamentary oversight, as well as improved reporting by development partners to the Creditor Reporting System of the Development Assistance Committee, the Survey on Donors' Forward Spending Plans of the Development Assistance Committee and the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

[9] See A/73/270.

B. Debt relief

68. Despite a positive global economic outlook that began around mid-2016,[10] emerging debt challenges in developing countries in Africa have continued to intensify since the 2017 report was compiled. Vulnerabilities have increased in countries across Africa that previously benefited from debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. This is a cause for concern, especially at a time when African Governments are faced with large financing needs to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Current and potential beneficiaries of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, as of July 2018

Status	*Countries*
Post-completion point	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia
Pre-decision point	Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan

Source: International Monetary Fund.

69. As of July 2018, the number of African countries that had reached the post-completion point and received full debt relief remained at 30. For those countries which are also categorized as least developed countries, the debt-to-exports ratio doubled from a low of 68.5 per cent in 2011 to 143 per cent in 2016, the debt service-to-exports ratio worsened substantially from 3.5 per cent in 2011 to 12.6 per cent in 2016, and the debt service-to-government revenue ratio reached a period high of 17 per cent in 2016, after being just under 5 per cent in 2011.[11]

70. A key concern for African countries is the growing risk of a renewed cycle of debt crises and economic disruption, posing a significant challenge to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, as financial resources that would otherwise have been used to finance the Goals are being used to service debt arrears. For instance, many countries in Africa that possess natural resources have seen rapid debt accumulation as governments have attempted to cushion the shock from falling commodity prices, particularly in oil-exporting countries. Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan are still at the pre-decision point and have not made much progress since the 2017 report.

71. To help to strengthen the debt management capacity of African countries and ensure long-term debt sustainability, a realism tool for the investment-growth nexus was introduced as a result of the recent review of the Joint World Bank-IMF Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries,[12] particularly in Africa. This tool would allow users to carefully assess growth assumptions in the light of public investment dynamics. The Framework should help African countries to better manage their debt.

[10] International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook Update*, July 2018.

[11] See A/72/253.

[12] See www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/08/01/16/39/Debt-Sustainability-Framework-for-Low-Income-Countries.

C. Foreign direct investment and other private flows

72. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[13] global flows of foreign direct investment (FDI) fell sharply by 23 per cent in 2017 to $1.4 trillion from $1.9 trillion in 2016. The decline was accounted for by a 27 per cent decrease in the value of cross-border mergers and acquisitions. FDI flows fell sharply in developed economies and in economies in transition while flows to developing economies remained relatively stable at $671 billion. As a result, developing economies accounted for a growing share of global FDI inflows in 2017, absorbing 47 per cent of the total, compared with 36 per cent in 2016.

73. FDI flows to Africa continued the downward trend, declining further by 21 per cent to $42 billion in 2017 from $53 billion in 2016. The decline was particularly more pronounced in the larger commodity-exporting countries. The slump in FDI flows to Africa was due largely to weak oil prices and the lingering effects of the commodities bust. However, FDI inflows to relatively diversified exporting countries, particularly Ethiopia and Morocco, were relatively resilient. The return on investment in Africa dropped from 12.3 per cent in 2012 to 6.3 per cent in 2017. This can be explained in part by the fall in commodity prices during the period and the worsening macroeconomic environment on account of rising debt.

74. In terms of the performance of FDI by subregion, flows to North Africa were down by 4 per cent to $13 billion. Morocco was the only notable exception as FDI increased by 23 per cent to $2.7 billion, driven by strong investment in new car technologies. FDI to West Africa fell by 11 per cent to $11.3 billion, since the economy remained largely depressed in Nigeria, where FDI fell 21 per cent to $3.5 billion. Similarly, FDI flows to Central Africa decreased by 22 per cent to $5.7 billion. FDI flows to East Africa, the fastest growing region in Africa, declined marginally by 3 per cent to $7.6 billion in 2017. In Southern Africa, FDI fell sharply by 66 per cent to $3.8 billion largely on account of the substantial decline in FDI to South Africa and Angola by 41 per cent and 156 per cent respectively.

D. Trade

75. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the total value of global merchandise exports increased by 10.7 per cent to $17.2 trillion in 2017, reversing a two-year decline. Increased investment spending and improving commodity prices contributed in part to the rebound in world trade. The most recent World Trade Outlook Indicator from WTO pointed to above-trend trade growth in the first quarter, while other indicators such as export orders and container shipping are also suggestive of an ongoing recovery.[14]

76. The value of exports from Africa rebounded significantly in 2017 from the previous year, increasing by 18.3 per cent to $417 billion, owing largely to a 28 per cent surge in energy commodities and a 22 per cent increase in the price of metals in 2017.[15] Ten African oil-exporting countries recorded an aggregate export growth rate of 29 per cent, while the rest of the countries on the continent recorded an aggregate export growth rate of 10.1 per cent.

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[13] *World Investment Report 2018* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.II.D.4).

[14] World Trade Organization, "Strong trade growth in 2018 rests on policy choices" (press release), 12 April 2018.

[15] World Bank, "Commodity prices likely to rise further in 2018: World Bank" (press release), 26 October 2017.

77. The WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2017 resulted in a number of ministerial decisions, including on fisheries subsidies and e-commerce duties. Important decisions were made at the conference for the integration of developing countries and least developed countries in the international trading system. Remaining relevant issues include advancing work on the three pillars of agriculture (domestic support, market access and export competition) as well as non-agricultural market access, services, development and trade and the environment.[16]

78. Global aid-for-trade commitments increased to $51 billion in 2016, commitments to Africa amounting to $18 billion. In terms of sectoral allocation, the largest distribution of commitments to Africa was in the energy sector, accounting for 34.4 per cent of the total. This was followed by the agriculture sector, at 25.1 per cent, and the transport and storage sector, at 22.1 per cent.

E. South-South cooperation

79. South-South and triangular cooperation continued to play a significant role in the development of Africa, complementing relations with its traditional development partners. South-South cooperation is grounded in the modalities related to (a) mutual learning and the exchange of knowledge and experience, policy dialogue, advice and joint research; (b) training programmes and technical assistance; and (c) financial support for projects and programmes. During the reporting period, a number of initiatives were launched by Africa's new and emerging development partners.

80. In the context of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, China continued to provide support to Africa in a number of areas, including agriculture, infrastructure development and industrialization. This was delivered through financial and technical assistance, the development of industrial parks and direct investment by Chinese private firms. In the area of agriculture, China provided support to improve agricultural productivity in Africa, primarily through sharing experiences, transferring technology, encouraging Chinese agricultural investments and conducting training and capacity-building programmes.

81. In March 2017 India announced a plan for a $1 billion credit line for solar energy generation in Benin, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, the Niger, Rwanda, Seychelles, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition, India announced $600 million in grant assistance that would include an India-Africa Development Fund of $100 million, a health fund of $10 million and 50,000 scholarships for African students.[17] In May 2018 the Republic of Korea announced a $5 billion financial package for Africa at the annual meetings of AfDB. This financial assistance will be delivered over a two-year period through partnerships with various development agencies.

82. Through the African Union-Turkey partnership, the African Union has received an annual contribution of $1 million since 2009. The joint implementation plan included key projects covering trade and investment, peace and security, culture and tourism, youth empowerment and technology transfer, the rural economy and agriculture, energy, information and communications technology and transport. Furthermore, Turkey continued to provide support to African countries to provide better access to clean water and water management. For example, 513 wells were

[16] Remarks by Susana Malcorra (Argentina), Chair of the eleventh Ministerial Conference, at the closing ceremony. Available at: www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/malcora_13dec17_e.htm.

[17] See A/72/297.

drilled, providing clean drinking water and tap water for more than 1 million people in Africa.

83. In the field of science, technology and innovation, although progress has been made, there is a need to further strengthen South-South cooperation through knowledge-sharing mechanisms, students and researchers, mobility programmers, joint research and development activities and the establishment of regional innovation hubs to promote integration in regional research and innovation networks.

IV. Support provided by the United Nations system

A. General

84. The United Nations system continued to provide substantial support for the priorities of the African Union and NEPAD at both the global and regional levels, by funding programmes and projects on capacity- and institution-building, providing policy advisory services and supporting resource mobilization efforts through global advocacy.

85. During the reporting period, the United Nations system continued to support the implementation of NEPAD, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the context of the African years of Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth and of Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation. In line with the Secretary-General's vision, the United Nations and the African Union signed two joint frameworks of cooperation: the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, in April 2017, and the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in January 2018. The second United Nations-African Union Annual Conference was held in July 2018, at which the Secretary-General and the African Union Commission Chairperson gave a commitment to further deepening the strategic partnership between the organizations. They reviewed progress in the implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and endorsed the action clan on the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

86. Support from the United Nations system helped to advance the continental integration agenda, particularly with the launch of the Single African Air Transport Market in January 2018 and the African Continental Free Trade Area in March 2018.

B. Strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development

87. At the nineteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in May 2018, the United Nations system consolidated its cluster system. The joint work programme of the United Nations and the African Union for the Mechanism for 2018–2019 was agreed upon in April 2018. The work programme is anchored on Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda, the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027, the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.

88. In this regard, it was recommended at the nineteenth session that collaboration between the Mechanism and the regional teams of the United Nations Development Group be strengthened through the institutionalization of joint meetings and the development of a cooperation and collaboration mechanism between the two entities.

V. Conclusions and policy recommendations

89. In the present report, progress in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda in the period from July 2017 to June 2018 has been reviewed. Since the NEPAD priorities were mainstreamed in Agenda 2063, the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan has also been reviewed in the report, albeit tangentially. The report shows that African countries continue to make progress in the implementation of the NEPAD priorities, particularly in infrastructure, agriculture, education, gender mainstreaming and governance.

90. A significant achievement during the reporting period was the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area in March 2018, creating a single market across the continent. If fully implemented, it will facilitate the flow of goods and services, labour and capital across Africa. Furthermore, an improved global environment with regard to a strong recovery in international trade, increased investment and rising commodity prices helped to improve economic performance in Africa in 2017.

91. A number of challenges remain, which if not addressed by African countries and the international community may undermine the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. These are described below.

92. **While the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement is a welcome development and could be a potential game changer for Africa, the Agreement requires ratification by 22 countries to come into force. This will require leadership at the highest political level. Therefore, African leaders may need to marshal the necessary political will to ensure the timely ratification of the Agreement.**

93. **With regard to infrastructure, the development of quality infrastructure is critical for long-term sustainable development in Africa. As the lack of finance and capacity constraints continue to be critical challenges for the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, African countries should intensify efforts to mobilize more domestic financial resources from both public and private sources to help to finance infrastructure projects.**

94. **There is also a need for cross-border resource mobilization strategies to mobilize resources for financing cross-border regional projects. Leveraging finance through public-private partnerships and using innovative financing mechanisms to make up for the shortfall are also viable strategies. To that effect, efforts to crowd pension funds and sovereign wealth funds in infrastructure investments should be encouraged.**

95. **The importance of agriculture in Africa's development takes on added significance with the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. Therefore, efforts must be intensified to strengthen agricultural development in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, with a view to enabling the**

sector to feed an expanding regional market and achieve food security. Given that smallholders account for a large percentage of agricultural production in Africa, they must be supported through financing, access to technology, capacity-strengthening to meet sanitary and phytosanitary standards and help with integration in regional value chains.

96. Although African Governments have continued to prioritize education in development, as evidenced by an increasing share of national budgets allocated to education, the return on education has been low. In the light of the persistent problem of a skills shortage and mismatch in African labour markets, juxtaposed with high youth unemployment, African countries must take measures to equip students with the requisite skills and training for the labour markets. Prioritizing and strengthening vocational and technical training and skills development in the education system will be key in this regard, through the strengthening of systems, the reform of curricula and access to technology to enhance learning outcomes and connectivity and to match the skills of African youth to labour market demands.

97. Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment will be indispensable to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of Agenda 2063. African countries have made progress in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Evidence shows that there has been greater progress, especially in countries that introduced quotas for women's participation in political decision-making structures. In the light of the positive impact of quota systems in increasing women's participation and meaningful engagement in key political decision-making structures, African countries that have not introduced quotas may wish to consider doing so. But beyond this, there is a need for further measures to improve women's access to opportunities and productive assets.

98. Given the enormous challenges that African countries face in their pursuit of sustainable development, increased support from the international community through financing, trade, technology transfer and debt relief will be essential for supporting African countries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. While African countries have made progress in mobilizing more domestic resources to finance their development,[18] ODA remains an important source of development funding for many. Therefore, development partners should make efforts to increase ODA to African countries in line with the commitments they have made.

99. Furthermore, illicit financial flows from Africa rob the continent of vital resources for financing its development priorities. Stopping illicit flows and repatriating them to Africa will provide the region with increased resources to finance health, education, infrastructure and critical development needs. Development partners should support efforts by the African Union and African countries to bring a stop to this menace through improved transparency in the tax system as well as disclosing the full beneficial ownership structure of companies. Strengthening the capacities of African tax authorities, most of which are ill equipped to detect and tackle illicit flows, will go a long way in stemming such flows.

100. The African Peer Review Mechanism has become an important mechanism for promoting good governance in Africa, as shown by the growing number of countries that have joined the process. Despite this, the follow-up and implementation of the African Peer Review programme of action remains a serious challenge. To address this problem, African countries participating in the

[18] See A/73/270.

Mechanism must mainstream their national programmes of action in country plans for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

101. **Owing to the lack of adequate domestic financing and declining concessional finance, African countries have had to borrow domestically and externally to finance investment in infrastructure. Although debt levels in many African countries remain below the levels that existed before the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative was launched and the risk of debt distress is low, the rate at which debt has increased in the past several years has raised concerns of a potential debt crisis. Therefore, measures must be taken to keep debt within manageable levels. Beyond this, there is a need to increase debt transparency across Africa, including the source and the purpose of debt.**

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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Biennial report on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/293, provides a review of the implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development by African countries and development partners. The report highlights progress, impact and challenges in four thematic areas critical to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development, as well as to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, namely industrialization and regional integration; health, water and sanitation; climate change; and financing of sustainable development.

On industrialization and regional integration, despite efforts to promote economic diversification, limited progress was made in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization. An enabling national, regional and international environment remains crucial for boosting productive capacities and fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development, while infrastructure deficit and non-tariff barriers are among the factors that continue to constrain more efficient and cost-effective intra-African trade. Nevertheless, the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area is an important milestone in the efforts to promote regional integration.

On health, water and sanitation, progress was made in improving access to these basic services, although key challenges remain. Maternal and child mortality rates remain higher than in any other region. Significant inequalities persist in access to water and sanitation between rural and urban areas. It is imperative that Governments of African countries meet their financing commitments under the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases and continue to prioritize developing national health systems and further modernizing health infrastructure.

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On climate change, African countries continue to implement national policies and regional initiatives to promote climate change resilience and adaptation and improve natural disaster preparedness. It is important that these efforts be supported through the fulfilment of commitments pertaining to climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

On financing of sustainable development, it is imperative to continue to harness the full potential of all sources of finance. African countries continue to make significant progress in domestic resource mobilization. It is important to enhance international cooperation to curb illicit financial flows and unleash the potential of domestic financial resources. The fulfilment of official development assistance commitments also remains crucial for providing critical development financing.

I. Introduction

1. Following the adoption of the political declaration on Africa's development needs at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held in September 2008 (resolution 63/1), the Assembly, by its resolution 66/293, established a United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development and requested the Secretary-General to submit a biennial report thereon. In the same resolution, the Assembly designated the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa as the secretariat for the biennial review in the context of its agenda item on the development of Africa, in coordination with relevant entities of the United Nations system.

2. Anchored in the principles of mutual accountability and partnership, the report provides a review of the implementation of commitments made by Africa's traditional and new and emerging development partners and by African countries, arising from, inter alia, major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and summits with Africa's partners.

3. The report is aimed at shedding light on the fulfilment of commitments in critical areas for Africa's sustainable development and inclusive growth, including by revisiting development priorities addressed in previous reports, such as climate change and environmental sustainability and development financing.

II. Process and scope of the report

A. Process

4. In preparing the report, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa conducted consultations with African stakeholders and Africa's traditional and new and emerging development partners to identify key commitments to support Africa's development under the four thematic areas; discuss achievements and challenges; and generate consensus on concrete recommendations to advance implementation.

5. The consultations were held with representatives of African regional and subregional organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, co-organized with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency in Midrand, South Africa, in April 2017; with the participation of the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); with members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris in May 2017; and with Africa's new and emerging development partners in Bangkok in June 2017, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

6. The consultations were complemented by a comprehensive questionnaire-based survey of key stakeholders, consisting of Member States, academia, civil society organizations and regional and subregional organizations, seeking their perspectives on the extent to which commitments were delivered, as well as challenges, outcomes, impacts and recommendations regarding advancing implementation.

B. Scope

7. Following consultations and the endorsement of the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs, four key thematic areas were selected. The Task Force sought to ensure alignment of the report with African priorities as encapsulated in

Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and to ensure balance in tackling themes related to the socioeconomic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

8. The four thematic areas reviewed in the present report are:

(a) Industrialization and regional integration, which are key underpinnings of Africa's socioeconomic transformation agenda set out in Agenda 2063 and essential to enabling resource-based economies to diversify and increase value addition. Industrialization is the subject of Sustainable Development Goal 9 and is consistent with the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2016–2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

(b) Health, water and sanitation, of which improved health care is a central goal in both Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The provision of clean water and sanitation is a key development objective and essential to achieving improved health outcomes, including with regard to maternal and child mortality;

(c) Climate change, whose negative effects pose major challenges to Africa's peace, security and development. Addressing the challenges will be indispensable to achieving both agendas, as well as to promoting peace and stability on the continent;

(d) Financing of sustainable development, the availability of which from domestic, external, public and private sources is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. The section follows progress after the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and provides an opportunity to revisit issues raised in the first biennial report (A/71/203).

III. Review of the implementation of commitments under the four thematic areas

9. The present section provides an assessment of progress in the implementation of commitments made by African countries and their development partners in the four thematic areas, highlights their impact and identifies gaps and challenges. The assessment includes a review of the detailed list of commitments made by African countries, OECD Development Assistance Committee member countries and new and emerging development partners and a review of surveys conducted with relevant stakeholders.

A. Industrialization and regional integration

1. Industrialization

Africa: commitment 1: promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization

10. Promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization is among the key underpinnings of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) and is crucial for realizing socioeconomic transformation.

11. This builds on the progress made in this regard through the implementation of the First and Second Industrial Development Decades for Africa, as well as the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, which identifies six priorities for action at the national, regional, continental and international levels.

12. African countries committed in goal 4 of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 to transforming economies and creating jobs as drivers of the implementation of the plan.

Implementation

13. The value of manufactured products of African countries doubled from $72 billion in 2002 to $189 billion in 2012. Manufacturing value added also increased substantially at an annual average rate of 12.5 per cent (in 2010). Manufactured exports grew by 6.1 per cent in 2012, driven by strong commodity prices.

14. In terms of the growth of manufacturing value added in Africa, the *Industrial Development Report 2018* indicates an increase from 1.4 per cent in the period 1990–2000 to 4 per cent in 2000–2016. However, manufacturing value added as a share of the gross domestic product (GDP) in African countries declined on average during the same period, from 12.8 per cent in 1990 to 10.5 per cent in 2016.

15. The contribution of the manufacturing sector to employment stagnated between 2000 and 2013, at 5.4 per cent and 11.2 per cent of total employment in sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa, respectively. The share of the manufacturing sector accounted for 11 per cent of GDP in African countries on average in 2015.[1]

Partners: commitment 1: support inclusive and sustainable industrialization, including through finance, investment and wider partnership policies

16. Development partners committed, in United Nations conferences and Group of Seven and Group of 20 summits, to supporting Africa's industrialization by facilitating access to financing and through wider development policies, including through trade, investment and technology transfer. Under various preferential trading regimes, development partners have undertaken to provide improved market access for African products, including manufactured products.

Implementation

17. Recent years witnessed a shift in the allocation of official development assistance (ODA) from productive sectors to social sectors. ODA to social sectors grew from $1.1 billion in 2012 to $1.4 billion in 2016. At the same time, ODA to productive sectors fell by 38.6 per cent, to $315.8 million, in 2016.

18. Africa's new and emerging development partners have made significant commitments to support Africa through a wide range of activities, including trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) in various sectors of several African economies, in particular trade in natural resources, manufacturing, agriculture and construction. The new partnerships have also evolved to include development cooperation in the form of aid, loans and grants.

19. Despite the significant diversification of FDI flows to different sectors of African economies, extractive industries remain the most important destination for investments from new and emerging development partners.

20. Between 2012 and 2015, China offered $31.5 billion in credit lines to African countries, exceeding its $30 billion commitment made in 2013.[2] Notably, the China-Africa Development Fund was established to invest more than $500 million in 27 projects covering agriculture, electric power, construction materials, mining, machinery and industrial parks, with a potential to stimulate nearly $4 billion in corporate investment from China to Africa.[3] By September 2016, more than 2,000 Chinese companies had invested more than $14 billion in Africa.

[1] African Development Bank (AfDB), OECD and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *African Economic Outlook 2017: Entrepreneurship and Industrialization* (2017).

[2] According to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

[3] China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Implementation of the follow-up actions of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation", November 2009.

21. Overall commitment to Africa's infrastructure from all reported sources fell by $16.4 billion from 2015 to 2016. This was due to a reduction of $14.5 billion of reported funding from China and a $4.9 billion decline in private sector investment.[4] Growth in China remains subdued compared with previous years, and the slowdown may affect the foreign investments of China in Africa, lead to cutbacks in investment projects and hurt growth in host countries.

22. Multilateral development banks continue to provide important concessional and non-concessional development financing. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Islamic Development Bank signed a $2 billion agreement in July 2017 to finance joint activities and projects in agriculture and food security, renewable energy and small and medium-sized enterprises in African countries over a three-year period.

Impact

23. Based on the $60 billion committed by China at the sixth Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, held in 2015,[5] 243 cooperation agreements amounting to about $50 billion were signed by China and African countries between December 2015 and July 2016. A report by McKinsey[6] highlighted economic benefits to Africa from Chinese investments, including job creation and skills development. Of the 1,000 firms surveyed, 89 per cent of the employees are local. Research suggests that Chinese firms employed several million Africans. Nearly two thirds of Chinese firms provide skills training to their workers. By 2015, China had established regional vocational education centres and capacity-building colleges, trained 200,000 technicians and provided Africans with 40,000 training opportunities in China.[7]

24. By 2016, disbursements of Indian financial commitments had funded over 150 projects across 45 African countries, all of which have benefited from more than $10 billion in lines of credit.[8] The country's commitments in the energy sector doubled in 2016 to $1.2 billion, from $524 million in 2015.[9]

25. Africa currently accounts for about 55 per cent of the disbursements by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, foreign aid from Brazil exceeded $1 billion in 2017, and a Brazilian business conglomerate provided about 13,000 jobs in Angola.

26. Although manufacturing accounts for only 18 per cent of Africa's total exports, the share of manufactured products in intra-African trade exceeded 50 per cent on average during the period 2010–2015,[10] highlighting the positive impact of regional integration on efforts to promote value addition and industrialization.

27. However, most African countries are integrated into the world economy at the lower end of the global value chain, with the bulk of the profits accruing to firms in developed countries, especially for several African agricultural products, such as coffee, cocoa and tea. An urgent priority therefore must be to help African countries to transform agricultural raw materials into industrial products, including through private-public partnerships.

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[4] AfDB, *African Economic Outlook 2018* (2018).

[5] Yun Sun, "Foresight Africa viewpoint — China's engagement in Africa: what can we learn in 2018 from the $60 billion commitment?", Brookings Institution, 30 January 2018.

[6] Kartik Jayaram, Omid Kassiri and Irene Yuan Sun, "The closest look yet at Chinese economic engagement in Africa", McKinsey, June 2017.

[7] In accordance with the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Johannesburg Action Plan (2016–2018).

[8] Asrat Seyoum, "India avails billion dollars' worth line of credit to Ethiopia", *The Reporter*, 18 March 2017.

[9] AfDB, *African Economic Outlook 2018*.

[10] AfDB, OECD and UNDP, *African Economic Outlook 2017*.

2. Regional integration

Africa: commitment 2: promote regional integration, including through the establishment of a continental free trade area

28. African countries committed themselves to the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area as a flagship programme of Agenda 2063 that is crucial for promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Implementation

29. Important steps have been taken by African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities to advance regional integration, including the launch in June 2015 of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa — East African Community — Southern African Development Community Tripartite Free Trade Area, comprising 26 African States.

30. At the time of writing, 49 countries had signed the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, which is aimed at doubling intra-African trade by removing non-tariff and tariff barriers on goods and services.

31. At its thirtieth ordinary session, held in January 2018, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted a continent-wide protocol on the free movement of people and the right to live and own land anywhere in Africa, which will significantly enhance intraregional integration.

32. At the same session, the Assembly of the African Union launched the Single African Air Transport Market, which will unify the air transport market and liberalize intra-Africa travel, thereby contributing to regional economic integration and development.

Impact

33. According to *Africa Economic Outlook 2017*, trade among African countries expanded from 10 per cent in 2000 to 16 per cent in 2014. ECA projects that the African Continental Free Trade Area has the potential to lift intra-African trade by 52.3 per cent from 2010 to 2022 and increase trade in industrial products by 53.3 per cent over the same period, while boosting value addition and driving industrial competitiveness.

3. Overall assessment and key priorities and challenges

Industrialization

34. There has been limited progress to date in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, measured through manufacturing as a proportion of GDP. Africa should develop its own path, drawing especially on the potential of agro-industry and capitalizing on its natural comparative advantages, while drawing policy lessons from other regions that have successfully built industrial sectors. Industrial policy cannot be considered in isolation; there is a need to address wider development issues, infrastructure, education, skills development and training.

35. Advancing industrialization requires special financial vehicles and institutions such as national and regional industrial development banks to finance industrial development-related activities. Although many African countries have established agricultural development banks, very few have financial mechanisms favouring industrial development.

36. Women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises and small firms lack access to finance. This key gender constraint in development is due to a lack of publicly backed schemes oriented towards women.

37. Trade policy reforms in OECD countries are necessary, as the current tariff structure penalizes processed and semi-processed products from Africa over raw materials.

38. While access to global markets will provide greater opportunities for growth and inclusiveness in the least developed countries, African agribusiness should look for enhanced opportunities, thanks to the widening and deepening of regional integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Tripartite Free Trade Area.

Regional integration

39. Infrastructure deficit and non-tariff barriers are among the key factors that continue to constrain a more efficient and cost-effective intra-African trade. Advancing the implementation of regional infrastructure projects is essential to promoting trade and regional integration.

40. Attracting private investments, including through the creation of enabling regulatory and legal frameworks, is indispensable for bridging the infrastructure deficit.

41. The disconnect between efforts aimed at industrialization and trade negotiations also poses significant challenges.

42. Removing difficulties faced by small and medium-sized enterprises in gaining access to credit to innovate and expand production will be important for economic structural transformation and industrialization.

B. Health and water and sanitation

1. Health

Africa: commitment 3: increase domestic funding for the health sector

43. In the 2001 Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, African countries pledged to allocate at least 15 per cent of their annual budgets to improving the health sector. Governments of African countries also adhered to, among others, the 2006 Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and the Africa Health Strategy 2016–2030.

Implementation

44. Available data from the World Health Organization (WHO) demonstrate a significant increase in health expenditure in African countries as a percentage of total government expenditure, from 8.7 per cent to 11.4 per cent in the period 2000–2013, rising from $13.6 billion to $50.7 billion over the period 2000–2011.

45. The African Union strengthened its health architecture by launching the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and their regional collaborating centres in the five regions of the African Union.

Partners: commitment 2: substantially increase financing and other support for the health sector

46. World leaders committed almost $3 billion to cutting malaria deaths to near zero by 2015 during the high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals held in

2008. United Nations Member States committed at least $22 billion to the global HIV response annually by 2015, as well as to setting target outcomes on HIV/AIDS transmission in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Commitments have also been made on health systems, health worker training, neglected tropical diseases, maternal mortality and the provision of drugs and treatment at affordable prices.

Implementation

47. Based on data from OECD, ODA for health in Africa increased significantly from $2.3 billion in 2002 to $15.8 billion in 2015 and $11.9 billion in 2016, totalling $124.6 billion over the period 2002–2016. More than 46 per cent of total ODA for health in 2016, amounting to $5.5 billion, was dedicated to population policies, including the control of sexually transmitted infections, most notably HIV/AIDS.

48. Engagement on the part of India has been growing in the sectors of health care and medicine in Africa. In 2011, Cipla, the largest pharmaceutical Indian firm manufacturing generic medicines, initiated in Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho and Zambia the Cipla dollar-a-day treatment programme, an initiative to reduce the cost of HIV/AIDS treatment.

49. China ranks among the top 10 bilateral global health donors to Africa. From 2000 to 2012, China committed $3 billion to 255 projects in the health, population and water and sanitation sectors in Africa. For its part, the Korea International Cooperation Agency recently unveiled its country partnership strategy for 2016–2020 for Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, where health cooperation is a prominent aspect of the blueprint.

Impact

50. The increase in investments in the health sector has provided important dividends in combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, as evidenced by falling mortality rates across Africa. However, many African countries suffer capacity constraints and pervasive weak health systems that were further weakened by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2013 and 2014. Notwithstanding these challenges, under-5 mortality rates decreased from 173 to 81 deaths per 1,000 live births over the period 1990–2015. Africa has also made significant progress in reducing the maternal mortality rate, from 965 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 542 per 100,000 live births in 2015.

2. Water and sanitation

Africa: commitment 4: expand and improve access to clean water and sanitation services

51. According to AfDB, 330 million Africans lack access to basic drinking water services, and 680 million lack access to safely managed sanitation services. Investments in clean water and sanitation are critical, with an estimated $13 billion required each year to meet the targets under Sustainable Development Goal 6 on the continent, not including the amount required for the operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure.[11]

Implementation

52. The Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene was adopted in May 2015 as the vehicle to implement the Africa Water Vision 2025.

[11] See http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/world-water-day-interview-wambui-gich-afdb-director-water-development-and-sanitation-department-17966/.

53. African countries have been working towards reaching a minimum expenditure of 0.5 per cent of GDP annually on water and sanitation by 2020, to improve access and improve health and nutrition outcomes, in accordance with the July 2016 Dar es Salaam road map for achieving the Ngor commitments on water security and sanitation in Africa.

54. The African Union, in partnership with the African Water Facility, has strengthened monitoring and reporting on access to clean water and sanitation in Africa. Under its strategy for the period 2017–2025, the Facility assists African countries in addressing the increasing need for investment for the development and management of water resources in Africa.

Impact

55. There have been several notable impacts on the ground. For example, Côte d'Ivoire made progress in defining national policies and strategies for sustainable development beyond 2015. Rwanda committed to developing a comprehensive sector investment plan, with multi-stakeholder input, to complement the existing sector strategic plan. The investment plan will be closely monitored and evaluated, to effectively track progress towards the achievement of Vision 2020 of Rwanda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In Lesotho, the Water and Sewerage Company budget allocation increased from $8.5 million to $12.4 million from 2013 to 2017, increasing clean water access and sanitation during the same period.[12]

Partners: commitment 3: provide financial support to help to extend access to clean water and sanitation services

Implementation

56. AfDB made a commitment to launch 47 new water, sanitation and hygiene operations during the period 2014–2016 (worth $1.8 billion). AfDB partially met that ambitious commitment by implementing 24 new operations by June 2016 with a cumulative value of $664 million.

57. In 2015, sub-Saharan Africa received the largest share of aid commitments for water and sanitation (over $1.7 billion) from traditional development partners of any region. Most countries in the region, however, did not reach the Millennium Development Goal targets for either drinking water or sanitation.[13] Aid commitments to the region declined from 38 per cent of overall water and sanitation ODA in 2012 to 20 per cent in 2015, from $3.8 billion to $1.7 billion.[14]

58. New and emerging development partners, including China and Turkey, have supported water and sanitation projects in Africa. Turkey, through the Humanitarian Relief Foundation, has provided water and sanitation aid to nearly 1.6 million people in Africa by drilling 457 water wells for clean water in nine African countries.

Impact

59. There have been several notable impacts on the ground. Assistance from the Netherlands helped the Water Supply Asset Holding and Investment Fund of Mozambique to cover 70 per cent of the country's 21 major cities with access to

[12] UN-Water, *UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) 2017 Report: Financing Universal Water, Sanitation and Hygiene under the Sustainable Development Goals* (Geneva, WHO, 2017).

[13] WHO and United Nations Children's Fund, *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: 2015 Update and MDG Assessment* (Geneva, 2015).

[14] UN-Water, *UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) 2017 Report*.

drinking water. Japan helped to provide 36 million people with drinking water and 4,200 people with training in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. Water, sanitation and hygiene aid from France co-financed the Kabala drinking water plant in Mali and financed a major capacity-building programme for the company operating the plant.

3. Overall assessment and key priorities and challenges

60. Developing national health systems and further modernizing Africa's health infrastructure for the growing population are critical.

61. Appropriate investments in human capital, especially quality education for young people, are needed for the 3 million additional professional health workers required to meet WHO minimum benchmarks.

62. Economic growth in some African countries has not yet translated into improved water and sanitation, owing largely to limited financial and budgetary allocations.

63. Significant inequalities in access to water and sanitation between rural and urban areas in Africa persist.

64. Policies on water and sanitation do not reflect the integrated political, financial, socioeconomic and environmental challenges that affect food security, health, development and the sustainability of ecosystems caused by climate change.

C. Climate change

65. The Paris Agreement entered into force in November 2016 with the aim of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100 and making efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The purpose of the Agreement is to increase the ability of countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change; achieve a net balance between sources and sinks of greenhouse gases; and make finance flows consistent with a low-emission and climate-resilient pathway. The Agreement also established that the intended nationally determined contributions would transition to nationally determined contributions.

1. National and regional planning and preparedness

Africa: commitment 5: enhance climate change resilience and adaptation and improve natural disaster preparedness through national and regional policies, strategies and planning

66. In goal 7 of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, African countries undertook to strengthen climate change resilience and natural disaster preparedness, including by integrating those objectives into national and regional policies, planning and preparedness.

Implementation

67. African countries took steps to integrate adaptation into development planning, including through integration at different levels, policymaking and climate legislation, and new institutional arrangements.

68. Five of the nine countries that have submitted their national adaptation plans to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are in Africa. The slow progress was due mainly to the lack of financial support available to developing countries. The decision of the Green Climate Fund to make up to

$3 million available to each country for such plans and other adaptation planning processes was therefore particularly welcome.

69. As at June 2018, 23 of 47 requests related to national adaptation plans and submitted to the Green Climate Fund were from Africa. Of those 23 requests, 7 had been endorsed and approved. Moreover, 47 African countries had ratified the Paris Agreement. To address the impacts of climate change, a number of key regional initiatives have been developed and adopted, including the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and the Africa Adaptation Initiative.

70. Following the African Union decision on Africa's engagement in the global climate change negotiations, three commissions dedicated to the Sahel region, the Congo basin region and the island States were established. In April 2018, African countries operationalized the Congo Basin Climate Commission and the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin.

Impact

71. To date, the Africa Climate Change Fund, a multi-donor trust fund managed by AfDB, has approved eight small grant projects totalling $3.3 million, which support countries in strengthening their capacity to gain access to international climate finance.

72. According to the World Bank, African countries have made progress in the implementation of the Africa Climate Business Plan. As at November 2016, 45 countries had committed to implementing their intended nationally determined contributions. The Plan had identified various sources of potential financing for the implementation of activities aligned with such contributions.

2. External support

Partners: commitment 4: provide additional climate finance

73. The Paris Agreement affirmed the goal of mobilizing at least $100 billion each year to address the mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries.

Implementation

74. According to United Nations estimates, total public climate-specific finance from developed countries to developing countries rose by about 50 per cent between 2011 and 2014, from $17 billion to $26.6 billion, focusing mainly on mitigation interventions. As at December 2016, the Green Climate Fund had mobilized $10.3 billion in pledges from 43 Member States, including from 8 developing countries.[15]

75. Within the framework of the Africa Climate Business Plan, the World Bank has facilitated country access to climate finance. With regard to "climate-smart" agriculture, the World Bank approved 11 projects totalling $1.4 billion, reaching more than 1.6 million farmers and improving about 725,000 ha of land with climate-smart agricultural practices. As regards access to energy, the World Bank has committed to installing 1 GW of solar capacity by 2020; to that end, the Bank is implementing a regional project worth $200 million to expand electricity access to households and communities through modern off-grid electricity services in nine target countries.

76. AfDB, the Africa 50 platform and the Green Climate Fund are working together on the Desert to Power initiative to transform African deserts into new sources of

[15] *Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects — Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development 2017* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.I.5).

renewable energy, with the aim of developing 10,000 MW of solar energy across 11 countries in the Sahel region and generating solar energy for 250 million people while promoting agriculture development and other economic activities.[16]

77. The Climate Investment Funds continued to support climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in the energy, climate resilience, transport and forestry sectors. Pledges totalling $8.3 billion are expected to mobilize an additional $58 billion of co-financing.

78. With the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the Global Environment Facility established a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency trust fund. Eleven donors pledged approximately $55 million to the trust fund at its official launch at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention, in November 2016.

79. The Africa Climate Change Fund was established with an initial contribution of €4.725 million from Germany and subsequently benefited from an additional funding commitment of €4.7 million from Italy and a commitment of €2 million from Flanders, Belgium.

Partners: commitment 5: support the transfer of technology and capacity-building

80. The Paris Agreement promotes strengthened international cooperation on climate-safe technology development and transfer and capacity-building and the establishment of a technology framework and appropriate institutional arrangements. As part of the Agreement, the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency was established to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements in the Agreement.

Implementation

81. With total funding of $50 million, the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer was established by the Global Environment Facility in 2008 to scale up the level of investment for technology transfer, with the aim of helping developing countries to address their needs with regard to environmentally sound technologies.

82. The Technology Mechanism was created by the Global Environment Facility in 2010 to facilitate action on technology development and transfer.

83. The Global Environment Facility provides funding to climate technology development and transfer activities. It supports countries in conducting technology needs assessments, developing technology pilot projects and implementing hundreds of climate projects with objectives related to climate technologies. Eleven African countries have participated in the first phase of technology needs assessment activities, and 12 have participated in the second phase.

84. During the period 2014–2018, 19 projects with technology transfer objectives were approved with $111.7 million in funding from the Global Environment Facility and $709.3 million in co-financing.

85. An example of a technology transfer project is the *Typha*-based production of thermal insulation material in Senegal, which started in 2013. During the reporting period, projects under the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency were approved by the Global Environment Facility in four African countries.

[16] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, "Major funds support clean solar energy in the Sahel", 30 May 2018.

3. Climate action

Africa: commitment 6: make "best efforts" on emission reductions through nationally determined contributions

Implementation

86. African countries continued to take measures to address the negative effects of climate change and to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience, by implementing and integrating climate change adaptation approaches into national development plans. This was demonstrated through the adoption of national strategies for the protection and promotion of biodiversity, as well as national climate change adaptation strategies.

87. The *Adaptation Gap Report 2017* indicates that, so far, there are no agreed indicators or matrices to assess progress towards the global goal on adaptation agreed in the Paris Agreement.

88. The Africa low emissions development strategies project supports countries in establishing analytical tools to inform optimal policies for implementing nationally determined contributions, thereby contributing to the encouragement of a country-led, demand-driven transition to a low-emission development pathway.

89. Through the Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly project, adaptation and mitigation aims are merged for complementarity to drive climate actions from the socioeconomic development perspective.

Partners: commitment 6: reduce carbon emissions (annex I parties) or otherwise make "best effort" nationally determined contributions (non-annex I parties)

Implementation

90. The *Emissions Gap Report 2017* indicates that the growth in total greenhouse gas emissions slowed in the past two years, with calculated increases of 0.9 per cent, 0.2 per cent and 0.5 per cent in 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively. Group of 20 countries are collectively on track to meet their Cancun pledges for 2020. However, progress varies among the Group's countries, with Australia, Brazil, China, India, Japan, the Russian Federation and the European Union estimated to be on track to meet their 2020 pledges.

91. According to Oxfam, aid to low-income countries to help them to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions is lagging behind the targets set in the Paris Agreement. A fresh injection of $4.1 billion from the international community has been made available to the Global Environment Facility to help to prevent biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

4. Overall assessment and key priorities and challenges

92. African countries took steps to integrate adaptation into development planning. Key priorities concern mainly the adaptation and mobilization of adequate funding and technology transfer. African countries need assistance in applying for green facilities, grants and loans.

93. African countries need assistance in enhancing their nationally determined contributions and integrating green and low-carbon growth into their national development frameworks.

94. There is a need for traditional development partners to meet their emission reduction commitments. Financing and capacity development needs for implementation should be mainstreamed into innovative mechanisms to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

D. Financing for development

1. Domestic resource mobilization

Africa: commitment 7: strengthen the mobilization of domestic public revenue and its efficient utilization

95. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda reaffirms that mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

96. African countries have made efforts to increase domestic resources to finance their sustainable development priorities. At its twenty-seventh ordinary session, held in July 2016, the Assembly of the African Union adopted measures to mobilize additional resources through innovative financing mechanisms.

Implementation

97. African countries have made major efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their revenue mobilization. These have included broadening the tax base through the establishment of autonomous revenue authorities; the adoption of value added tax; and measures to ensure the transparency of revenue and expenditure, as well as better governance.

Impact

98. Such measures have contributed to improved revenue collection: tax revenue increased from 23 per cent in 2000 to a high of 28.5 per cent of GDP in 2006.

99. However, tax mobilization efforts are relatively weak in African oil-exporting countries, with an average tax-to-GDP ratio of 20 per cent in 2015, compared with 25 per cent for African non-oil exporters and 34 per cent across the OECD Development Assistance Committee member countries.

100. Despite those efforts, tax revenues remain insufficient to finance the continent's development agenda as encapsulated in Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. Structural factors such as low per capita income, a large informal sector and limited manufacturing also hamper tax mobilization efforts in Africa.

Africa: commitment 8: mobilize private investment and develop capital markets and other financial sources

101. Despite growth, domestic resources remain low in absolute terms for many African countries, requiring the mobilization of increased resources, including from the domestic private sector.

102. African countries have undertaken reforms to deepen the financial sector and facilitate the efficient allocation of resources to support development. They have also undertaken to encourage private investment through improvement of the business environment.

Implementation

103. Measures implemented by African countries have ranged from privatization and deregulation to macroeconomic and broader institutional reforms, including agricultural, trade and financial liberalization undertaken in the context of structural adjustment programmes.

104. The impressive showing of African countries on the World Bank ease of doing business index demonstrates the impact of investment climate reforms. For example, 5 of the world's top 10 reformers were in Africa in 2014.

Impact

105. Measures taken by African countries have contributed to improving the performance of the banking sector, with a concomitant positive impact on private sector development and overall economic development. According to the International Monetary Fund, the region's median ratio of private sector credit to GDP has doubled from its 1995 level. The continent has also experienced innovation in financial services, thanks to the growth of mobile telephony, including the notable development of systems such as M-Pesa and M-Shwari in East Africa.[17]

2. External finance

Partners: commitment 7: increase official development flows, including (in the case of traditional development partners) official development assistance

106. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, ODA commitments were reaffirmed, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for ODA (ODA/GNI) and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries. Africa is the major beneficiary of these commitments, particularly of the latter, as two thirds of the least developed countries are in Africa.

Implementation

107. According to preliminary OECD figures, net ODA by Development Assistance Committee members reached $146.6 billion in 2017, representing a decline of 0.6 per cent in real terms compared with 2016 and a roughly 8.7 per cent increase in current prices over the 2013 baseline. Net ODA as a share of GNI fell once again, from 0.32 per cent in 2016 to 0.31 per cent in 2017, which makes the collective progress towards the target of 0.7 per cent still elusive.

108. However, while the headline ODA figures have weakened globally for 2017, preliminary estimates suggest that the bilateral aid from OECD Development Assistance Committee countries to Africa was about $29 billion, reflecting a 3 per cent year-on-year increase following a 0.5 per cent decrease from 2015 to 2016. Similarly, ODA to the least developed countries, two thirds of which are located in Africa, reached $26 billion in 2017, reversing the earlier decline with a 4 per cent year-on-year increase.

109. Based on the latest disaggregated data for 2016, net ODA disbursements to Africa declined by 1.6 per cent, from approximately $51 billion in 2015 to $50.2 billion in 2016. The sectors primarily targeted by Development Assistance Committee donors in 2016 are: social (44 per cent); economic (20 per cent); humanitarian aid (11 per cent); production (10 per cent); multisector aid (8 per cent); and general programme aid (5 per cent).

Impact

110. Encouraging progress was observed in the better streamlining of developing countries' strategic planning and priorities, as well as better alignment between development partners' programmes and country-led results frameworks. There has

[17] Anne-Marie Gulde-Wolf, "Accelerating financial sector development to boost growth in sub-Saharan Africa", International Monetary Fund, 13 July 2016.

been an increase in untied aid from 2010 to 2016, the proportion of untied aid in ODA from Development Assistance Committee countries peaking at 80 per cent in 2016, having risen from 74 per cent in 2010.

111. Against a target of 90 per cent of funds being disbursed as planned, the annual predictability worldwide decreased slightly in 2015, to 84 per cent, from 85 per cent in 2010. Yet that overall figure masks a regional disparity: Africa suffers the most, at 73 per cent.

Partners: commitment 8: facilitate flows of private external resources (remittances, foreign direct investment and other flows)

112. Group of 20 leaders committed to reducing the global average cost of remittances to 5 per cent (from 9.30 per cent in mid-2011) during the Group of 20 Summit held in Cannes, France, in 2011. The Group revised that target at its Summit held in Hangzhou, China, in 2016 to 3 per cent, as well as committed to eliminating remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 10.

Implementation

113. Global flows of FDI fell by 23 per cent to $1.43 trillion in 2017 from $1.87 trillion in 2016. However, investments in developing countries remained stable, allowing them to account for a growing share of global FDI, namely 47 per cent of the total in 2017, an increase from 36 per cent in 2016. However, there is a growing regional disparity among developing countries due partly to weak oil prices and the macroeconomic spillover effects from the commodity bust. FDI flows to Africa continued to slide, with a 21 per cent year-on-year decline from $53.2 billion in 2016 to $41.7 billion in 2017. This corresponds to a decline from 3.6 per cent of global FDI in 2013 to around 2.9 per cent in 2016, suggesting that Africa is losing ground in its quest to attract investments.

114. The cost of sending remittances was 7.1 per cent globally as at the first quarter of 2018, having remained flat compared with the year before and down from the baseline of 9.7 per cent in 2009. While that figure is a historic low, it is still 2.1 per cent above the Group of 20 objective and 4.1 per cent above the Sustainable Development Goal 10 target.

115. The average cost of sending remittances to sub-Saharan Africa stands at 9.4 per cent as at the first quarter of 2018 and is the highest in the world.

Impact

116. Remittance flows to sub-Saharan Africa bounced back, having risen by 11.4 per cent in 2017 and reaching $38 billion after flows declined two years in a row, by 2.5 per cent, to $36 billion, in 2015 and by 4.6 per cent, to $34 billion, in 2016. They remain a lifeline for many countries, accounting for example for 27 per cent of GDP of Liberia and 21 per cent of GDP of the Comoros. The largest recipients of remittances in 2017 were Nigeria ($22 billion), Senegal and Ghana ($2.2 billion each), Kenya ($2 billion), Uganda ($1.4 billion) and Mali ($1 billion).

117. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to have the highest remittance costs in the world, at some 29 per cent above the world average in 2017. In 2017, some of the most expensive corridors were intraregional, for example Angola to Namibia (26.7 per cent). Conversely, the least costly intraregional corridor in 2017 was Côte d'Ivoire to Mali, at 2.9 per cent.

118. To overcome the stagnation in the global average cost of sending remittances, Group of 20 countries may also need to implement further measures to increase competitiveness and innovation in the remittance market.

119. The share of Africa in global FDI is only 2.9 per cent. Major destinations for FDI in Africa in 2017 were Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana and Morocco. However, among the greenfield investments, only about 25 per cent were in the manufacturing sector, with the rest focused on the service sector and the primary sector.

3. Illicit financial flows

Africa: commitment 9: reduce illicit financial outflows and recover stolen assets

Implementation

120. The findings of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa show the serious adverse consequences of illicit financial flows on African development, which put the estimates for such flows out of Africa at over $69 billion each year. According to studies conducted under the auspices of Global Financial Integrity, the scale of such flows from Africa due to trade mispricing alone is approaching $50 billion a year.

121. At its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in January 2015, the Assembly of the African Union adopted a special declaration on illicit financial flows in which African leaders resolved to ensure that all the financial resources lost through illicit capital flight and illicit financial flows are identified and returned to Africa to finance the continent's development agenda.

122. According to OECD, base erosion and profit-shifting practices cost countries between $100 billion and $240 billion in lost tax revenue annually, which is equivalent to 4–10 per cent of global corporate income tax revenue.

Partners: commitment 9: reduce illicit financial flows and return stolen assets

Implementation

123. To stem illicit financial flows, Sustainable Development Goal 16 (target 16.4) calls for significantly reducing illicit financial and arms flows, strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets and combating all forms of organized crime by 2030. Through its Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda, adopted in Hangzhou in 2016, the Group of 20 aims to enhance existing international efforts in this area through the implementation of the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2017–2018.

Impact

124. The Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, which comprised 11 members as at March 2018, covers many African countries and jurisdictions. The Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, with 79 signatories as at June 2018, entered into force in July 2018, strengthening existing tax treaties and reducing opportunities for tax avoidance by multinational corporations. While the potential impact of limiting base erosion and profit-shifting practices and bringing about more transparency in international taxation will materialize gradually, it should lead to improved tax revenues across Africa and enhance competitiveness based on transparency and efficiency.

125. In order to put an end to base erosion and profit-shifting practices, key priority measures to curb the negative spillovers and adverse impacts on competitiveness were identified, as were minimum standards for fighting harmful tax practices, preventing tax treaty abuse, including treaty shopping, improving transparency with country-by-country reporting and enhancing the effectiveness of dispute resolution.

4. Overall assessment and key priorities and challenges

126. It is estimated that $6 trillion per year, or $90 trillion over the lifetime of the Sustainable Development Goals, is required to achieve the Goals globally, implying that ODA as the sole means of implementation will not be sufficient. There is growing recognition that private flows to Africa, including remittances, domestic resource mobilization and curbing illicit financial flows, will be the key components of a wholesale effort to make the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations in Agenda 2063 of the African Union a reality. Nonetheless, it is crucial for OECD Development Assistance Committee members to revitalize their efforts to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI, as well as the target in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 of providing 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of donor GNI as ODA to the least developed countries, given that over 70 per cent of those countries are in Africa.

127. Apart from efforts to increase the volume, the challenge is maximizing the catalytic effect, including using blended finance and other strategic and innovative means of financing for development and promoting affordable financing for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa.

128. Given that commercial flows constitute most illicit financial flows, the international community should redouble its efforts to tackle tax havens and stem the practice of profit shifting among multinational corporations.

129. As for facilitating private external resource flows to Africa, while the onus is on the African countries to create a sound business environment and secure property rights that would foster investor confidence, the OECD Development Assistance Committee partners have a role to play in helping to build capacity to implement the necessary reforms and increasing support for risk sharing and risk mitigation instruments. OECD countries and the Group of 20 should redouble their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target of 3 per cent in remittance costs.

130. In a United Nations-African Union report, it is argued that Africa has enormous domestic financial resource potential and that it should take advantage of its development opportunities by looking inward to mobilize adequate resources for stable growth and inclusive development. Achieving the continent's aspirations will hinge on the ability of African countries to mobilize adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources.

131. The challenges facing Africa are to enhance domestic resource mobilization and at the same time adopt the right policies and create credible institutions to leverage additional resources from external public and private sources.

132. Mobilizing the resources required to finance the investment needs of African countries will be critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Industrialization and regional integration

133. **Governments of African countries may consider the need to:**

(a) **Increase awareness of the importance of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa to the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area;**

(b) **Accelerate investment and industrialization, building on their comparative advantages, youthful population and growing middle class. Competitive wages and proximity and access to developed markets provide opportunities to expand collaboration with emerging partners;**

(c) **Implement sound macroeconomic policies and create a conducive and inclusive business climate, so as to attract foreign investment and expand manufacturing and agricultural production;**

(d) **Revitalize technical and vocational education and training systems. The acquisition of employment-relevant skills for young people and adults to participate meaningfully in the economy towards the achievement of sustainable livelihoods is vital.**

134. **Development partners may consider the need to:**

(a) **Encourage investment in Africa, by encouraging private companies engaged in manufacturing and agribusiness to invest in and relocate to the continent;**

(b) **Promote investment in sustainable and secure energy, renewables and energy efficiency, and sustainable and resilient infrastructure and industries in Africa;**

(c) **Support African Member States in industrializing through trade in accordance with the African Continental Free Trade Area and in identifying infrastructure gaps, needs and funding requirements for sustainable infrastructure, including regional and rural infrastructure, along with opportunities to promote public-private partnerships;**

(d) **Encourage foreign development banks to mobilize resources in infrastructure and industries through partnerships and to build institutional management capacities to strengthen country systems;**

(e) **Promote science, technology and innovation as critical means for industrialization in Africa, by contributing to the capacity development of science and technology personnel, including women and youth;**

(f) **Focus on the potential for agro-industry, capitalizing on Africa's natural comparative advantages.**

B. Health, water and sanitation

135. **Governments of African countries may consider the need to:**

(a) **Increase the quality of health care through reforms that improve the infrastructure of health facilities, qualified staff and essential medicines to improve effective health-care delivery;**

(b) **Establish affordable health financing mechanisms, including social health insurance, while working towards universal health coverage;**

(c) **Fulfil their commitment of 15 per cent budget allocation to the health sector, in accordance with the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases;**

(d) **Strengthen regional health cooperation mechanisms and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention for the prevention, early detection and reporting of health problems;**

(e) **Scale up investments in the conduct of epidemiological and health service research;**

(f) **Develop robust public-private partnerships for health to find innovative approaches to accelerating access to health information and services;**

(g) **An increase in financing of some $13 billion each year is required for Africa to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets on water and sanitation. Initiatives and policies should be designed to help to create an enabling environment that addresses shortcomings in governance and capacity and that promotes knowledge, smart solutions and innovations to attract public and private sector investments.**

136. **Development partners may consider the need to:**

(a) **Scale up long-term predictable and sustainable health financing by strengthening South-South cooperation to mobilize resources for health financing to boost health sector capacity;**

(b) **Enhance support for robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks alongside strong statistical and data systems to inform analysis, identify gaps and support the formulation of health policy interventions to improve health outcomes;**

(c) **Encourage pharmaceutical manufacturing in Africa to cover unmet pharmaceutical needs, bring down costs and increase access to essential medicines;**

(d) **Increase investments in scientific research and professional training and find suitable alternatives for antimicrobial-resistant drugs.**

C. Climate change

137. **Governments of African countries may consider the need to:**

(a) **Continue to take measures to integrate adaptation into development planning and implement their national adaptation plans to strengthen climate change resilience and natural disasters preparedness;**

(b) **Strengthen national capacities to gain access to international climate finance.**

138. **Development partners may consider the need to:**

(a) **Deliver on commitments to provide additional financial support and climate-friendly technology for climate change adaptation and mitigation;**

(b) **Deliver on commitments to specific emissions reductions or to nationally determined best efforts;**

(c) **Provide technical and financial support for Africa to increase energy availability;**

(d) **Ensure the equal treatment of Africa in addressing climate change by providing financial support and incentives for mitigating carbon dioxide emissions through avoided deforestation, and for acting as a global sink of carbon dioxide.**

D. Financing for development

139. **Governments of African countries may consider the need to:**

(a) **Continue to increase domestic revenue, including by formalizing the informal sector;**

(b) **Strengthen the capacity of tax authorities to tackle illicit financial flows;**

(c) **Strengthen property rights and the rule of law and simplify investment rules and regulations to put in place an enabling business environment, in order to attract long-term greenfield FDI from within and outside Africa and contribute to the continent's structural transformation.**

140. **Development partners may consider the need to:**

(a) **Increase support for industrialization, particularly in the agro-industry sector, through a combination of investment, trade policy and capacity-building support;**

(b) **Increase ODA to Africa, in line with the scale of the challenges facing the continent;**

(c) **Allocate the bulk of ODA to long-term development goals, as opposed to short-term emergencies, such as the refugee crisis and other humanitarian emergencies. Funding for the latter should not crowd out the former;**

(d) **Redouble efforts to bring the cost of remittances down in line with Sustainable Development Goal 10 and the remittance plans implemented by the Group of 20 countries, including by supporting science, technology and innovation in Africa, as well as providing capacity-building support to African Member States;**

(e) **Strengthen efforts to stem illicit financial flows and to identify, recover and return stolen assets.**

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Item 74 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Right to development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, Saad Alfarargi, submitted in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 33/14.

* A/73/150.

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Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development

Summary

In this thematic report, the Special Rapporteur explores the link between South-South cooperation, sustainable development and the right to development. After elaborating on the concept of South-South cooperation as well as the relevant legal and policy framework, the Special Rapporteur examines some of its key challenges from the perspective of the right to development. The report highlights that South-South cooperation policies, programmes and initiatives should integrate a right to development perspective in order to overcome these challenges. To this end, the Special Rapporteur recommends that States and other relevant stakeholders incorporate the human rights principles enshrined in the right to development into the design, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of South-South cooperation processes. He outlines the benefits of such an approach, noting that it enhances the potential of South-South cooperation to contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right to development as well as other human rights. To illustrate such contributions, the Special Rapporteur highlights some concrete examples of good practices in advancing inclusive sustainable development and human rights through South-South cooperation. The report concludes with some key recommendations aimed at leveraging the full potential of South-South cooperation.

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I. Activities of the Special Rapporteur

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 33/14.

2. The activities of the Special Rapporteur from September 2017 to July 2018 are outlined in his report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-ninth session (A/HRC/39/51). Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 36/9, the Special Rapporteur is convening a series of regional consultations on the practical implementation of the right to development in 2018 and 2019. The Special Rapporteur is planning to hold consultations for the Latin American and Caribbean Group in October 2018 and for the Asian Group in December 2018.

II. Introduction: South-South cooperation and the realization of the right to development

3. Today, the international community is confronted with ever-increasing global challenges and crises that pose a threat to the economic, social, cultural and political development of current and future generations. Already back in 1986, the Declaration on the Right to Development (General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex) recognized that such development challenges can only be addressed if States and other relevant stakeholders join forces to find common and sustainable solutions. Acknowledging the importance of international solidarity and cooperation, the Declaration entrusts States with the duty to cooperate with each other in eliminating obstacles to development; in ensuring development and human rights for all peoples and individuals; and in creating an enabling environment for the realization of the right to development on the national and international levels. Significantly, the Declaration also underlines that international cooperation is key to overcoming historic and structural inequalities that hinder the realization of the right to development in developing countries.

4. As traditional forms of North-South cooperation have proven insufficient to address global development challenges and asymmetries, South-South cooperation has become a key element of the international cooperation architecture for sustainable development. Although not a new phenomenon, South-South partnerships have experienced a remarkable expansion in recent years, reflecting the accumulation of experiences, knowledge and resources in the global South. Indeed, South-South cooperation has "established itself as a distinct and innovative paradigm that has proved to be a valuable tool for building capacity and promoting development".[1]

5. Recognizing the potential contributions of South-South cooperation, the internationally agreed policy documents of 2015[2] firmly integrate it as a complement to other forms of international cooperation for achieving inclusive and sustainable development across the globe. These policy documents provide new impetus for leveraging South-South cooperation as a means to realize the right to development.

[1] "The role of South-South Cooperation in the achievement of SDGs and the BAPA + 40 Conference", p. 2, available at www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/dcf/brief%204_SSC_SDGs_BAPA%2B40_DGCIN_Argentina.pdf.

[2] The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II); General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"; and the Paris Agreement on climate change (see FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex) (hereinafter referred to as the post-2015 policy framework for sustainable development).

6. In the present thematic report, the Special Rapporteur explores the link between South-South cooperation, sustainable development and the right to development. After elaborating on the concept of South-South cooperation as well as the relevant legal and policy framework, the Special Rapporteur examines some of the key challenges to South-South cooperation from the perspective of the right to development. The report highlights that South-South cooperation policies, programmes and initiatives should integrate a right to development perspective in order to overcome these challenges. To this end, the Special Rapporteur recommends that States and other relevant stakeholders incorporate the human rights principles enshrined in the right to development into the design, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of South-South cooperation processes. He outlines the benefits of such an approach, noting that it enhances the potential of South-South cooperation to contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right to development in the context of the implementation of the post-2015 policy framework for sustainable development. To illustrate such contributions, the Special Rapporteur highlights some concrete examples of good practices in advancing inclusive sustainable development and human rights through South-South cooperation. The report concludes with some key recommendations aimed at leveraging the full potential of South-South cooperation.

7. The Special Rapporteur hopes that this report will inform the discussions to be held at the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.[3]

III. Understanding South-South cooperation

8. According to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), South-South cooperation can be understood as a "broad framework of collaboration among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains". Within this framework, developing countries seek to meet their development goals through concerted efforts.[4]

9. The main objectives, as outlined in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, are for developing countries to promote national and collective self-reliance; create a platform of exchange among themselves; enhance technological capacities; strengthen their capacity to respond to development challenges; increase and improve international development cooperation; and achieve greater participation in international economic activities.[5]

10. In the absence of a universally accepted definition of South-South cooperation,[6] the United Nations developed the following operational definition on the basis of the 2009 Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on

[3] Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[4] UNOSSC, "About South-South and triangular cooperation" (www.unsouthsouth.org/about/about-sstc/).

[5] Buenos Aires Plan of Action (note 3 above), para. 15.

[6] Various definitions are used by different international institutions and countries. In Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States region, for example, South-South cooperation is also understood as "East-East cooperation". See UNDP, *Scaling-up South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (2016), p. 9, available from www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/development-impact/Scaling-Up_SSC_for_Sustainable_Development.html.

South-South Cooperation (General Assembly resolution 64/222, annex) and other relevant sources:

> "...a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how, and through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving Governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions."[7]

11. In the light of these documents, the Special Rapporteur wishes to recall the following elements that guide South-South cooperation and that distinguish it from the traditional North-South cooperation model:

(a) *Modalities of cooperation*. South-South cooperation involves two or more developing countries that cooperate on a bilateral, regional, intra- or interregional basis. It is not limited to financial aid and should not be considered as official development assistance. Instead, South-South cooperation encompasses diverse forms and methods of cooperation that enable developing countries to share knowledge, skills, technical expertise and resources. South-South cooperation is therefore multi-faceted and may include elements of trade, investment, financial and humanitarian support, technical cooperation and capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge exchange, among others;

(b) *Solidarity and ownership*. The relationship between South-South cooperation partners differs from traditional donor-recipient relations. South-South cooperation should be seen as expression of solidarity among equal partners who share common experiences and objectives. As such, the South-South cooperation agenda and initiatives must be determined and driven by developing countries seeking to establish horizontal cooperation for mutual benefits. They should thus be guided by the principles of non-conditionality and respect for national ownership, sovereignty and priorities as outlined in national development strategies and plans;

(c) *Multi-stockholder approach*. South-South cooperation embraces a multi-stakeholder approach, meaning that it is not limited to collaboration between governments. It involves cooperation among peoples and countries, including through partnerships involving governments, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society actors, academia and the private sector. South-South cooperation is sometimes facilitated by developed countries and/or multilateral organizations in the framework of triangular cooperation.[8] The United Nations provides support to South-South and triangular cooperation through UNOSSC and various other entities;[9]

(d) *Complementarity*. South-South cooperation is a particular form of international cooperation that complements rather than substitutes for North-South cooperation. Hence, South-South and triangular cooperation should not result in a reduction of North-South cooperation or hamper progress in fulfilling existing official development assistance commitments;

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[7] See SSC/17/3, para. 9, and A/67/39, chap. I, decision 17/1, para. 2.

[8] A United Nations working definition describes triangular cooperation as "Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a developed country(ies)/or multilateral organization(s) to implement development cooperation programmes and projects" (SSC/17/3, para. 11). Triangular cooperation can take various forms, including the provision of funding, training, management and technological systems. See UNOSSC, "About South-South and triangular cooperation" (www.unsouthsouth.org/about/about-sstc/).

[9] For an overview of the current state of United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation, see A/72/297.

(e) *Development impact and effectiveness*. In order to improve development impact and effectiveness, South-South cooperation programmes, initiatives and activities should be evidence-based, result-orientated, based on mutual accountability and transparency and coordinated with other development programmes and projects on the ground.

IV. Linking South-South cooperation and human rights: legal and policy framework

12. Obligations with regard to international cooperation in the context of development and human rights can be derived from various sources, most notably the Charter of the United Nations; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)) and international human rights treaties; and commitments made by States in resolutions and international policy documents. Although South-South cooperation may not always be explicitly mentioned, the Special Rapporteur notes that references to international cooperation should be understood to include South-South cooperation as one particular form of international cooperation. The following section provides an overview of key legal and policy documents that form the normative basis for the realization of the right to development through international cooperation, including South-South cooperation.

A. International cooperation as a State obligation

13. The importance of international cooperation has been emphasized by the United Nations since its creation in 1945. According to article 1(3) of the Charter of the United Nations, one of the main purposes of the Organization is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without discrimination. In this context, articles 55 and 56 of the Charter should be understood to establish legal obligations regarding international cooperation as States commit to take certain individual and collective action in the promotion of peace, human rights and development.

14. This spirit of solidarity and international cooperation has found further expression in a variety of international agreements. It is enshrined in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which provides that States have a duty to cooperate in the various fields irrespective of differences in their political, economic and social systems. The Declaration stipulates that States are obliged to cooperate, inter alia, in the protection and promotion of human rights; in the economic, social and cultural fields as well as the field of science and technology; in the promotion of international cultural and educational progress; and in the promotion of economic growth, especially in developing countries.[10]

15. International cooperation is also an underlying principle of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Under article 22, everyone "has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation, and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality". In addition, article 28 entitles everyone to a social and international order in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.

[10] General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), annex, fourth principle.

16. In line with the above-mentioned instruments, international cooperation has been codified in various legal instruments and human rights treaties on the regional and international levels.[11] Article 2(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (see General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) is especially relevant as it requires States to "take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical [...]" in order to achieve the full realization of the rights contained in the Covenant.

17. In this context, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has frequently reiterated that "international cooperation for development and thus for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights is an obligation of all States".[12] The importance of international cooperation is affirmed in specific provisions contained in articles 11, 15, 22 and 23 of the Covenant. Article 11(1), for instance, requires States to take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, "recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent". The Special Rapporteur notes that, even in the absence of an explicit reference to international cooperation, States are obliged to cooperate in the realization of other Covenant rights since all provisions must be interpreted in light of the general legal obligations outlined in article 2.

B. International cooperation in the context of the right to development

18. Article 1 of the Declaration on the Right to Development defines the right to development as "an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized". In light of this definition, the right to development must be understood as the right to a particular process of development, one that allows for the full realization of all human rights by expanding the capabilities and freedoms of all individuals to improve their well-being. Recognizing the entitlements of individuals as well as collectives and future generations, the right to development accords attention to structures, processes and outcomes. It recognizes equity, equality and justice as primary determinants of development.[13]

19. The Declaration on the Right to Development highlights the importance of cooperation between individuals, States and the international community in creating an enabling environment for development which is sustainable, just, equitable and inclusive. It recognizes that the right to development cannot be realized without effective cooperation among States, nor can all States fulfil their obligations without support from the international community. The Declaration thus imposes a concrete obligation on States to cooperate in ensuring the full realization of the right to development on the national and international levels.

20. This duty to cooperate is firmly anchored in articles 3, 4 and 6 of the Declaration. Article 3 requires States to respect the principles of international law on friendly relations and cooperation among States; to cooperate in ensuring

[11] See, for example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 4; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, articles 4(2) and 32; and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, article 22(2).

[12] Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, general comment No. 3 on the nature of States parties' obligations (art. 2, para. 1, of the Covenant), paras. 13 and 14.

[13] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Realizing the Right to Development* (New York and Geneva, 2013), pp. 67–73. Available at www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/RightDevelopmentInteractive_EN.pdf.

development and eliminating obstacles to development; and to promote an international economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence, mutual interest and cooperation among all States. Article 4 further obliges States to take individual and collective action in order to formulate development policies that facilitate the full realization of the right to development. The provision also emphasizes that effective international cooperation is crucial for providing developing countries with appropriate means and facilities to foster their development. Article 6 specifically calls upon States to cooperate in order to protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination.

21. In 1992, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[14] reaffirmed the role of cooperation for the realization of the right to development. In article 5, the Declaration asserts that "[a]ll States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world". In this connection, article 6 stipulates that special priority should be given to the situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and those most environmentally vulnerable.

22. In 1993, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action further affirmed the need for effective international cooperation and solidarity in realizing the right to development for all. The Declaration noted that enhanced and sustained international cooperation is essential for achieving peace and security, human rights and development, the three pillars and main purposes of the United Nations.[15] To this end, the Vienna Declaration calls upon the international community, States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to cooperate effectively, including with regard to the enjoyment of human rights, the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development.[16]

23. More recently, international cooperation in the context of sustainable development has been enshrined and reaffirmed in the four internationally agreed policy documents of 2015. These documents provide new impetus to South-South and triangular cooperation as a means to realize the right to development.

24. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development explicitly reiterates the importance of South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation and as a vital element of international cooperation for development (see General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex, para. 56). With regard to cooperation on international tax matters, for example, the Agenda recognizes the "need for technical assistance through multilateral, regional, bilateral and South-South cooperation, based on different needs of countries" (ibid., para. 28). The Agenda also calls upon developing countries to voluntarily increase their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation in various fields, including poverty eradication, sustainable development, science, research, technology and innovation (ibid., paras. 57 and 120). In this context, the Agenda encourages States to improve the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation in accordance with the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (ibid., para. 57).

25. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction highlights that a combination of various forms of cooperation has proven to be key in supporting

[14] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[15] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, para. 1.

[16] Ibid., paras. 10, 13 and 73, inter alia.

States, communities and businesses in reducing disaster risk (see General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II, paras. 8 and 44). In particular, disaster-prone developing countries need to be supported through international cooperation and durable partnerships on the regional level in order to strengthen their capacity to respond to, and recover from, disasters and to implement the Framework in accordance with their national priorities and needs (ibid., para. 41). In this connection, the Framework calls upon States to strengthen cooperation in the field of disaster risk governance, management and reduction (ibid., paras. 26, 28 and 44). Complemented by North-South and triangular cooperation, South-South partnerships play a key role in supporting national capacities and potential to manage disaster risk and in "improving the social, health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and countries" (ibid., para. 44).

26. Similarly, the Paris Agreement on climate change recognizes the importance of international cooperation on adaption efforts, paying special attention to the needs of developing countries. All States parties and specialized United Nations entities are urged to strengthen their cooperation with regard, inter alia, to sharing information, good practices, experiences and lessons learned; strengthening relevant institutional frameworks that provide information, guidance and technical assistance; enhancing scientific knowledge on climate in order to inform better decision-making; supporting developing countries in identifying and implementing good practices; improving the durability and effectiveness of adaption measures; facilitating technology development and transfer; enhancing understanding, action and support concerning the loss and damages associated with the adverse effects of climate change; and promoting climate change education, training and awareness (articles 7 (6)–(8), 10 (2), 8 (3) and (4) and 12).

27. Finally, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see General Assembly resolution 70/1) recognizes that sustainable development can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnerships and cooperation. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to enhance international cooperation with a view to supporting domestic resources and capacities to achieve the targets of the Goals. While references to international cooperation can be found in various goals, Goal 17 is particularly important as it aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnerships for sustainable development. South-South cooperation is specifically mentioned with regard to the mobilization of additional financial resources for developing countries; knowledge sharing and access to science, technology and innovation; and capacity-building in development countries to support national action plans.[17]

V. Integrating the right to development into South-South cooperation

A. Challenges of South-South cooperation

28. The Special Rapporteur recognizes that the conceptual framework of South-South cooperation is promising as it embodies many of the principles enshrined in the right to development such as equality, inclusiveness, participation, national ownership and self-determination. However, the Special Rapporteur notes that it is important to distinguish between normative ideas and actual practice on the ground. As South-South cooperation becomes more widespread and institutionalized, policymakers and other stakeholders are faced with challenges that may undermined the founding principles of South-South cooperation if they remained unaddressed

[17] See General Assembly resolution 71/313, targets 17.6 and 17.9 and indicator 17.3.1.

Some of the key challenges identified by the Special Rapporteur from the perspective of the right to development relate to unequal power relationships and benefit sharing, the lack of meaningful participation, adverse human rights impacts and difficulties in monitoring and evaluating South-South cooperation.[18]

29. One concern is that South-South cooperation may play into existing and emerging disparities between countries of the global South. South-South cooperation seeks to abandon the donor-recipient relationships that often characterize traditional forms of North-South cooperation. However, the diversity of, and the unequal relationships between, countries involved in South-South cooperation are sometimes downplayed.[19] In fact, the global South has been described as an increasingly heterogeneous group of countries with different experiences, interests, needs and levels of development.[20] In particular, emerging economies surpass many developing countries in terms of their economic capacity and political influence. Such imbalanced relationships mean that partners in South-South cooperation may not be equal in practice and that mutual benefit does not always translate into equal benefit sharing.[21] The Special Rapporteur highlights that it is important to acknowledge these asymmetries, especially when it comes to South-South cooperation between emerging economies and less developed countries. Otherwise, there is a danger that South-South cooperation could be dominated by certain countries, becoming more prescriptive, conditional and based on self-interest. This tendency has already been observed in South-South cooperation involving large infrastructure and energy projects driven by emerging economies in countries that are of strategic and economic importance to them. In such initiatives, grants and concessional loans are often tied to the purchase of goods and services, meaning that the benefits to local economies can be limited.[22]

30. Furthermore, there is concern that civil society, affected communities and individuals are sometimes not sufficiently involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of South-South cooperation initiatives. This is particularly the case in countries where civil society lacks capacity or where civic space has increasingly been constrained, thus hindering civil society's active participation in broader policy discussions and decision-making processes at the national and local levels. In such circumstances, there is a danger that South-South cooperation is driven by and benefiting elites while failing to create genuine multi-stakeholder partnerships for the benefit of the population at large, local communities and those left furthest behind.[23]

31. Some initiatives under the South-South cooperation framework may even pose an obstacle to human rights and sustainable development when they are not implemented in line with the right to development. In particular, large infrastructure

[18] Some concrete examples illustrating these challenges can be found in the following report: CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness and The Reality of Aid, *Policy Research on Operationalizing People-Oriented South-South Development Cooperation* (2018), available at http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/9f29ee_8fe806c99632427e9e734a8df04d2b7d.pdf.

[19] Danish Institute for International Studies, "Addressing the dilemmas in South-South cooperation" (September 2015), available at www.files.ethz.ch/isn/193920/South_south_final_for_web.pdf.

[20] OHCHR, *Realizing the Right to Development* (note 13 above), pp. 191–192.

[21] International Labour Office Regional Office for Africa, *South-South Cooperation for Decent Work in Africa* (2017), p. 11. Available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_553630.pdf.

[22] "Addressing the dilemmas in South-South cooperation" (note 19 above); Policy Research on Operationalizing People-Oriented South-South Development Cooperation (note 18 above), p. 11.

[23] See, for example, The Reality of Aid, *South-South Cooperation: A Challenge to the Aid System?* (2010), available from www.realityofaid.org/roa_report/south-south-development-cooperation-a-challenge-to-the-aid-system; Fahamu Networks for Social Justice, *African Civil Society Engagement with Emerging Powers* (2017), available at www.fahamu.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CSOs_EP_2017-1-1.pdf.

projects and initiatives involving the private sector have been criticized for their adverse human rights impacts. Frequently raised concerns relate to labour rights issues, the violation of indigenous rights, lack of transparency and meaningful consultation with affected populations, forced relocation and insufficient resettlement options or compensation packages, negative effects on food security caused by destruction of natural resources and negative health and environmental consequences caused by emissions, oil spills, water and soil pollution (see A/HRC/31/60/Add.1, para. 75).

32. Finally, the Special Rapporteur notes that monitoring and evaluating South-South cooperation can be challenging. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), some of the main difficulties in this regard relate to the diversity of South-South cooperation modalities and the lack of a universally accepted definition; evidence gaps and limited data on South-South cooperation; the lack of structured monitoring and evaluation mechanisms or information management systems; and limited experience or institutional capacity among Southern partners.[24] While acknowledging the complexities involved in measuring, monitoring and assessing South-South cooperation, the Special Rapporteur believes that the collection of disaggregated data and the establishment of transparent and participatory monitoring and evaluation frameworks for South-South cooperation would contribute to advancing the right to development across all countries and segments of society.

B. The need to integrate the right to development into South-South cooperation

33. In order to address these challenges, gaps and concerns, the Special Rapporteur emphasizes the urgent need to integrate the right to development perspective into South-South cooperation polices, programmes and initiatives. To this end, the Special Rapporteur recommends that States and other relevant stakeholders incorporate the human rights principles enshrined in the right to development in the design, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of South-South cooperation processes. Such an approach seeks to reinforce and complement many of the principles enshrined in the conceptual framework of South-South cooperation.

34. In the view of the Special Rapporteur, a right to development perspective provides a conceptual framework for sustainable development that is normatively based on international human rights standards and operationally directed to promoting and protecting the right to development with a view to advancing the realization of all human rights. Integrating such a perspective into South-South cooperation would be beneficial as it implies that:

(a) South-South cooperation programmes, policies and projects should promote a holistic understanding of development that goes beyond economic growth and that defines development as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process aimed at improving human well-being, the expansion of individual capabilities and the realization of human rights. Equality, justice, equity and fairness must thereby be the primary determinants of development;

(b) The continuous improvement of human well-being and the fulfilment of human rights should be a main objective when designing and formulating South-

[24] UNDP, "Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for South-South and triangular development cooperation: lessons from Brazil for the 2030 Agenda" (October 2016), p. 9. Available from www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/development-impact/s-s-,-M-E-lessons_from_Brazil.html.

South cooperation policies, programmes and activities. Equal attention must be accorded to the realization of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights;

(c) Initiatives implemented under the South-South cooperation framework should identify rights-holders and their entitlements, as well as corresponding duty-bearers and their obligations. They should also work towards strengthening the capacity of rights-holders to meaningfully participate in South-South cooperation processes and to claim their rights, while enabling duty-bearers to meet their obligations;

(d) South-South cooperation processes should be guided by principles and standards derived from international human rights instruments, including those relating to the right to development, throughout the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases. Consequently, South-South cooperation processes should adhere to the principles of transparency and accountability; guarantee equality and non-discrimination; ensure meaningful and informed participation of all relevant stakeholders in decision-making; promote equity and inclusiveness; mobilize maximum available resources; ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing; incorporate due diligence procedures and safeguards against adverse human rights impacts; and provide accountability mechanisms and effective remedies when human rights have been violated in the context of South-South initiatives;

(e) South-South cooperation processes should pay special attention to identifying and addressing discrimination and inequalities that impede the realization of the right to development. In this connection, South-South cooperation initiatives should take positive action to advance human rights and sustainable development for those who have been left behind;

(f) South-South cooperation should not only be assessed in terms development outcomes, but also in terms of its processes. State commitments under South-South cooperation programmes, policies and activities should be monitored and evaluated in light of human rights instruments and relevant recommendations made by human rights mechanisms.

35. The Special Rapporteur underlines that the right to development does not prescribe a single method of implementing South-South initiatives. It looks at structures, processes and outcomes from a right to development perspective, while taking into account that different approaches are required for integrating the right to development into South-South cooperation. Which methods are best suited for operationalizing such a perspective will depend on the sector, local needs and circumstances, resource availability and the different actors involved.

36. As South-South cooperation is typically not framed in human rights terms, limited research and guidelines exist on applying a right to development perspective to South-South cooperation. While noting that further research is required in this regard, the Special Rapporteur emphasizes that substantial information is available about strategies and practices employed to implement a human rights-based approach to development cooperation.[25] Methods identified in this area, such as participatory budgeting, human rights and equality impact assessments and gender action plans, to name but a few, can be equally useful for operationalizing a right to development perspective in the context of South-South cooperation.

[25] For an overview of such practices, see, for example, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, "Integrating human rights into development cooperation" (April 2014), available at https://ghum.kuleuven.be/ggs/publications/research_reports/stp-report-integrating-hr-in-devcoop.pdf.

VI. The potential of South-South cooperation for the realization of the right to development

37. The Special Rapporteur is confident that South-South cooperation holds much promise for the future, provided that it is implemented in accordance with the right to development as outlined above. The present section elaborates on the potential of South-South cooperation for advancing the realization of the right to development in the global South. It will also provide some concrete examples of promising practices illustrating how South-South cooperation can contribute to the realization of the right to development by effectively advancing sustainable development, human rights and the implementation of the internationally agreed outcome documents of 2015.

38. Although the Special Rapporteur has not yet developed a comprehensive framework for assessing good practices, he has identified the following elements of good practices that should be considered when analysing South-South cooperation through a right to development lens.

39. The right to development calls for comprehensive, holistic human development policies and programmes that are aimed at advancing the realization of human rights for everyone. As such it requires South-South cooperation policies, programmes and activities to be designed, implemented, monitored and assessed through an approach that is participatory, accountable, transparent and inclusive. South-South cooperation should be grounded on the principles of non-discrimination and equality to ensure that those who are lagging behind are given special attention and that all individuals and communities effectively participate in and equally benefit from South-South partnerships. In addition, policies and programmes require the allocation of appropriate financial and economic resources from both domestic and international sources (if needed) in a manner that reflects genuine political commitment and accountability. South-South partnerships should encompass meaningful accountability frameworks to hold duty bearers to account, including though judicial or quasi-judicial mechanisms, and provide effective means of redress for all stakeholders impacted by these partnerships. Lastly, South-South initiatives should deliver in terms of outcomes, meaning that they should enable developing counties to meet their development goals through concerted efforts while improving equity, justice and well-being for all through the realization of their human rights.

A. New multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development

40. In his first report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/36/49), the Special Rapporteur highlighted that cooperation, revitalized partnerships and a participatory multi-stakeholder approach are key prerequisites for the realization of the right to development. Since a multi-stakeholder approach is one of its core principles, South-South cooperation is uniquely suited to strengthen and create multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development that are based on solidarity, equality and common development goals.

41. For example, the expansion of South-South cooperation leads to the establishment of new collaboration mechanisms and frameworks that facilitate more structured and vibrant forms of development cooperation on the interregional level. In his recent report to the Economic and Social Council on trends and progress in international development cooperation, the Secretary-General stressed that such interregional frameworks "provide high-level platforms for knowledge-sharing and mutual learning among Southern partners, involving both State and non-State actors, including parliamentarians, representatives of civil society, local authorities, women and youth, as well as representatives of the private sector" (E/2018/55, para. 44).

Indeed, interregional South-South forums and summits [26] can facilitate the formulation of common development agendas and coherent strategies, the coordination of policies, the mobilization of resources for sustainable development and the launching of joint development initiatives. [27] The increasing number of Southern-led and owned multilateral development banks and funds [28] can also play an important role in supporting sustainable development efforts, including through the mobilization of resources, the support of cross-border initiatives and projects and innovative approaches to increase the effectiveness of development cooperation. [29]

42. South-South cooperation further provides a valuable opportunity to enhance Southern-led partnerships for sustainable development on the global level. Through triangular cooperation modalities, partners in South-South cooperation can unite developing countries, multilateral institutions and traditional donor countries. Such partnerships can support South-South efforts for sustainable development through the provision of funding, training and management and technological systems as well as other forms of support. [30]

43. In addition, South-South knowledge exchanges allow countries to share good practices in creating participatory and inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches for sustainable development. This could help to further spread promising practices identified by UNOSSC, such as participatory budgeting or Costa Rica's national pact for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. [31]

44. The Special Rapporteur emphasizes that, by reinforcing and creating multi-stakeholder partnerships, South-South cooperation has great potential to contribute to the implementation of the 2015 policy framework and the realization of the right to development. However, this potential can only be leveraged if these partnerships are aligned with the right to development. In the view of the Special Rapporteur this means that they must: (a) ensure effective access to information and meaningful participation of all relevant stokeholds at all levels of decision-making; (b) empower and be inclusive of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities and individuals; (c) ensure that risks and benefits are equally and fairly distributed between all partners; and (d) be accompanied by accountability mechanisms. If these criteria are fulfilled, Southern-led multi-stakeholder partnerships can lead to more inclusive and sustainable development by empowering key actors to actively participate in, contribute to and benefit from the development of their own countries. By doing so, they can help to level the playing field and reduce inequalities, both within and between countries. This may also lead the way in reforming the way in which multilateral development cooperation has traditionally operated.

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[26] Examples include the India-Africa Forum Summit, the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation, the Forum of China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Summit of South American-Arab Countries, the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa summit and the India, Brazil and South Africa summit.

[27] See E/2018/55, para. 44, and Economic and Social Council, summary of the Development Cooperation Forum Argentina high-level symposium, 6–8 September 2017, p. 2, available at www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/dcf/dcf-argentina-summary.pdf.

[28] Examples include the New Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America, the Islamic Development Bank and the Africa Financial Alliance for Climate Change recently announced by the African Development Bank Group.

[29] See E/2018/55, para. 42, and summary of the Development Cooperation Forum Argentina high-level symposium (note 27 above), p. 5.

[30] UNOSSC, "About South-South and triangular cooperation" (www.unsouthsouth.org/about/about-sstc/).

[31] UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (May 2016), available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-buqyoV0jpSWE9FM2tHSUhCUW8/view.

India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation

45. The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) is a good example of interregional South-South partnerships for sustainable development supported by the United Nations system. The fund aims to build new partnerships for development by facilitating the execution of replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to interested developing countries as examples of good practices in the fight against poverty and hunger.[32] Projects are demand-driven and "objectives range from promoting food security, to addressing HIV/AIDS, to extending access to safe drinking water — all with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals". They are implemented through partnerships among UNDP, local governments, national institutions and implementing partners. Project beneficiaries are also involved and particular attention is paid to their capacity-building.[33] The recent India, Brazil and South Africa declaration on South-South cooperation reiterated the importance of national ownership, noting that sustainable projects under the IBSA Fund must ensure the involvement of relevant stakeholders of partner countries throughout the initiation, implementation and delivery phases.[34]

46. In Guinea-Bissau, the IBSA Fund has facilitated partnerships with rural communities through projects aimed at generating agricultural capacity on the local level, reducing food insecurity and improving livelihoods. Overall, the projects enhanced agricultural production by training over 4,500 local farmers (60 per cent women) in agricultural techniques, resulting in a 12 per cent increase in rice yield. Projects also supported the diversification of production by offering alternatives for new crops; rehabilitated low-lying lands for cultivation; and trained partner farmers in water management, processing and conservation of agroproducts.[35]

47. While implementing these projects, the Fund used methodological approaches in line with the right to development: activities were designed through participatory processes, where villagers were involved in the specifications, demand and implementation of activities and partnered with ministries, decision-makers and key government entities. When projects showed results, they were expanded to other communities. Subsequent projects deepened successes or tried different approaches where challenges were greater. The projects also had an accountability component, as clear mutual accountability compacts were signed with villages and government partners. Projects were evaluated with input from relevant stakeholders, confirming both the development results and adherence to principles such as national ownership and leadership, equality, horizontality and non-conditionality.[36]

B. Platform for sharing good practices

48. The Special Rapporteur highlights the importance of acknowledging the great potential that South-South cooperation has as a tool and platform for identifying,

[32] See "About IBSA Trust Fund" (http://tcdc2.undp.org/IBSA/about/about.htm) and IBSA Fund, "2017 overview of project portfolio", p. 2, available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-buqyoV0jpSMDZsNEhNR2YxS2s/view.

[33] UNOSSC, "India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Facility"(www.unsouthsouth.org/partner-with-us/ibsa/).

[34] IBSA declaration on South-South cooperation, 5 June 2018, available at www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/29955/IBSA_Declaration_on_SouthSouth_Cooperation.

[35] UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (note 31 above), pp. 7–8; IBSA Fund, "2017 overview of project portfolio" (note 32 above), pp. 42–45.

[36] Ibid.

sharing and replicating good practices in the implementation of the internationally agreed outcome documents of 2015 and the realization of the right to development.

49. Developing countries and emerging economies have become key players and an important source of good practices in advancing sustainable development at the national, regional and global levels. They have accumulated diverse and innovative development practices in their policies, institutions and programmes. These approaches must be recognized as viable pathways to advancing sustainable development in the global South. South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives are key in this regard, as they seek to leverage the knowledge, skills, expertise and technical know-how of developing countries through exchanges and mutual learning. The South-South cooperation framework allows developing countries to actively support each other by sharing development policies, strategies and programmes that have proven successful in accelerating sustainable development in their own countries and regions. Such peer-to-peer learning is crucial for finding innovative and practical policy solutions to development challenges that can be adapted and replicated in different contexts.[37]

Sharing good practices in relation to school feeding programmes

50. Brazilian-led initiatives aimed at expanding school feeding programmes provide a concrete example illustrating how South-South cooperation promotes the sharing of good practices.

51. The Declaration on the Right to Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognize hunger and poverty as the most important challenges for achieving sustainable development and realizing the right to development across the globe. South-South cooperation initiatives have proven to be a vital tool for developing countries to address hunger and fulfil the right to food through concerted efforts. For example, South-South cooperation in the field of school feeding programmes have helped various developing countries to advance their development objectives by taking advantage of Brazilian knowledge and experiences.

52. Brazil has made significant progress in fighting hunger and improving food security since the introduction of its Zero Hunger strategy and the expansion of national school feeding programmes.[38] The Brazilian model uses school feeding programmes as a social safety net that not only improves health and food security at the household level, but also advances the right to education for some of the most vulnerable children. Indeed, research in the Brazilian context has shown that providing in-school meals, mid-morning snacks and take-home rations through school feeding programmes can alleviate short-term hunger; improve food and nutrition security; increase children's abilities to concentrate, learn and perform; reduce absenteeism; and increase enrolment rates for girls. Poor and chronically undernourished children particularly benefit from these effects.[39] Since the Brazilian model stipulates that at least 30 per cent of food for school feeding programmes needs to be sourced locally from smallholders, these programmes also stimulate local

[37] UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (note 31 above); UNDP, "Frequently asked questions: South-South and triangular cooperation", available from www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/development_cooperationandfinance/frequently-asked-questions--south-south-cooperation.html.

[38] Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Briefing note 01, "Countries tackling hunger with a right to food approach" (2010), p. 8, available at http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/food/docs/Briefing_Note_01_May_2010_EN.pdf.

[39] UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (note 31 above), p. 23.

economies by improving livelihoods and fostering small-scale agricultural production.[40] On the basis of this success, United Nations agencies have frequently acknowledged Brazil's school feeding programmes as a good practice that should be adapted and replicated by other countries.

53. Since 2009, South-South cooperation initiatives backed by the Government of Brazil and the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre for Excellence against Hunger have helped to expand and adapt the Brazilian model of school feeding programmes to other developing countries. The South-South initiatives focus on building partnerships that enable the sharing of Brazilian knowledge, technical know-how, policies and practices for school feeding with other developing countries. Through capacity development and technical assistance, the programme has led to the successful introduction of school feeding programmes in 14 countries of the region, while paying due regard to local needs, national policy goals and the participation of the local community and civil society.[41]

54. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), more than 28 developing countries were actively tapping into Brazil's expertise in 2016.[42] The success of local purchase schemes for school feeding programmes in Brazil has also inspired South-South cooperation initiatives in other regions such as the Purchase from Africans for Africa programme. The programme aims to increase market access of smallholder farmers while improving the food security of students through home-grown school feeding programmes in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal. This South-South initiative is a collaboration between the Government of Brazil and the participating countries, supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP and the United Kingdom as triangular partners. The programme has made important contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, providing locally purchased meals to 420 schools and increasing productivity rates of more than 5,500 family farmers by an average of 114 per cent. The programmes' strong focus on capacity-building and community participation are important to ensure sustainability, long-term expansion and lasting partnerships.[43]

55. Recognizing the success of these South-South initiatives, UNOSSC noted that "[s]chool feeding is now changing the way in which the poorest countries address the combined challenges of hunger, education and small-scale agricultural production, building on the successes, lessons and structures in countries of the South such as Brazil."[44] In this context, the Special Rapporteur stresses that South-South initiatives related to school feeding programmes can help make the right to development a reality in countries of the global South by contributing to the promotion of several human rights and by empowering local communities and young generations in line with the

[40] WFP, "Home grown school feeding resource framework: synopsis - March 2017", p. 3, available at https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/49c79dff999d42fca7da58853d7fa255/download/.

[41] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), "FAO's South-South and triangular cooperation strategy in action" (2016), pp. 8–9, available at www.fao.org/3/a-i6249e.pdf; UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (note 32 above), pp. 11–12 and 23–24.

[42] WFP, "South-South and triangular cooperation for food security and nutrition" (2016), p. 4, available at https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp289623.pdf?_ga=2.89909021.720148991.1499245980-521485542.1485772073.

[43] UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (note 31 above), pp. 19–20; FAO, "FAO's South-South and triangular cooperation strategy in action" (note 41 above), p. 9; WFP, "Lessons learned from the Purchase from Africans for Africa initiative", available at www.wfp.org/purchase-progress/news/blog/lessons-learned-purchase-africans-africa-initiative.

[44] UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (note 31 above), p. 19.

2030 Agenda. If implemented in accordance with the right to development, such initiatives not only advance the rights to food and education, but also contribute to economic inclusion and the reduction of poverty and inequalities.

C. New solutions to adverse global trends and emerging development challenges that cut across national and regional boundaries

56. In his first report to the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur identified some of the global trends that adversely affect the realization of the right to development across the globe. Such obstacles include the global economic and financial crisis, austerity, climate change and natural disasters, new global pandemics, demographic change, corruption, illicit financial flows and challenges linked to automation and privatization (see A/HRC/36/49, para. 30 (d)). The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small-island developing States are particularly impacted by these adverse global trends and, at the same time, face the greatest challenges in addressing them. South-South cooperation provides a valuable opportunity for developing countries to find common, innovative, adaptable and cost-efficient solutions to the existing and emerging development challenges they face in light of such adverse global trends. With respect to climate change, for example, South-South initiatives can play an important role in strengthening disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption in developing countries. By doing so, such initiatives make a vital contribution to the realization of the right to development and the implementation of the post-2015 policy framework.

South-South cooperation in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction

57. A South-South cooperation initiative aimed at sharing the Cuban model for local disaster risk reduction management is one concrete example that illustrates how South-South cooperation can effectively support developing countries in addressing emerging development challenges related to climate change and disaster risk.

58. In response to increasing threats from climate change and natural disasters, the Government of Cuba developed an innovative new model for local disaster risk reduction that relies on so-called risk reduction management centres. These centres consist of professional teams that manage an information hub at the local level. They collect, analyse, compile and coordinate risk and disaster information in order to assist local authorities in analysing risk and making development decisions informed by local risks and vulnerabilities. The centres also facilitates the flow of information between communities, government authorities and other relevant stakeholders. They support remote and isolated communities, providing them with information, equipment and training that enable them to identify, communicate and reduce disaster risk and to take effective protective and preventive measures.[45]

59. The Government of Cuba, in cooperation with UNDP and the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative, established eight provincial and 84 municipal centres in 310 communities across the country since the introduction of the model in 2005. The model has frequently been described as a good practice since results demonstrate improved risked preparedness, increased awareness of the population, better informed

[45] UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (note 31 above), p. 105; UNDP, "Cuba: risk reduction management centres: best practices in risk reduction" (2010), available at www.preventionweb.net/files/14963_crmicgrrcubabp2010en1.pdf.

local decision-makers, more effectively managed disaster situations and mitigated impacts of disasters with minimal loss of lives and property.[46]

60. Based on the success in Cuba, the model of risk reduction management centres has attracted widespread interest from other Caribbean countries facing similar challenges concerning climate change and disaster risk. As a result, the Government of Cuba launched a South-South cooperation pilot programme with five Caribbean countries (Guyana, Jamaica, the British Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago) aimed at replicating the model and adapting it to local contexts. The long-term objective of this South-South initiative is to enhance local disaster risk reduction, management and decision-making to ensure that disaster risk and recovery are integrated in development planning and practices throughout the region. UNDP and the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative played an important role in guiding and facilitating the South-South cooperation process as a triangular partner.[47]

61. Before implementing the model in the five pilot countries, baseline data and information were compiled for all participating countries in order to identify local needs and specific conditions on the ground. The transfer of knowledge and experiences from Cuba to the five pilot countries took place through various means and mechanisms such as technical support missions, technical and awareness-raising workshops, training sessions and local capacity-building measures. During the pilot process, attention was paid to ensuring the involvement of a variety of national and local stakeholders, including decision-makers, technical experts and specialists, national disaster management agencies, UNDP country offices, implementing authorities and beneficiaries.[48]

62. Through this South-South initiative, Cuba's risk reduction model has been successfully adapted and implemented in all five countries. It resulted in the establishment of risk reduction management centres and teams, the development of a local disaster risk information platform, the establishment of community-based early warning points and the development of disaster risk reduction programmes and action plans based on local risk and vulnerability assessments. Throughout the process, emphasis was placed on the documentation of lessons learned, experiences and knowledge generated by those applying the model.[49] This has resulted in various publications and toolkits, which are useful for promoting the Cuban model in the Caribbean region and beyond.[50]

63. The Special Rapporteur reiterates that South-South cooperation provides a vital opportunity for developing countries to join forces in finding innovative, cost-effective and context-specific solutions to some of the common development challenges they face regarding climate change and disaster risk. The South-South initiative led by Cuba shows that South-South cooperation has great potential as a platform for sharing and promoting practices that have proven successful in a

[46] UNOSSC, *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (note 31 above), p. 105; UNDP, "Cuba case study: best practices in risk reduction", p. 2, available at https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/R46/RRMC%20Caso%20Estudio_cuba.docx.

[47] UNDP, "Sharing what works: South-South cooperation for disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean" (2014), available at www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/06/23/sharing-what-works-south-south-cooperation-for-disaster-risk-reduction-in-the-caribbean.html; UNDP, "Final report: Caribbean Risk Management Initiative", available at https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/R46/CRMI%20Final%20Report%202012%20-%202015.pdf.

[48] Ibid.

[49] UNOSSC *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* (note 31 above), p. 106; UNDP, "Sharing what works" (note 47 above).

[50] See, for example, https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/R46/RRMC%20GIS%20Toolkit.pdf.

particular context. By exporting and adapting these good practices, the South-South initiative has created new partnerships for sustainable development across the Caribbean region. These partnerships have provided vital support for developing countries in addressing their development challenges and in advancing their development objectives through a decentralized and participatory multi-stakeholder approach. The further improvement and promotion of the model could advance the realization of the right to development in other developing countries through the implementation of the 2015 outcome documents on a local and community level.

64. Another example worth highlighting is South-South cooperation in disaster recovery efforts led by the Government of China under the Belt and Road Initiative. In 2017, the Government of China, through the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, together with UNDP, provided support for recovery and reconstruction efforts for half a million people in five disaster-affected countries. According to UNDP, these efforts have been essential in restoring livelihoods, strengthening resilience and promoting development. Over 473,826 people in Nepal and Bangladesh have received shelter, emergency kits and relief packages; 18,750 children and 80,269 internally displaced people in Pakistan have received new school facilities and aid packages; and roof rebuilding has been started on more than 850 houses in Dominica and Barbuda. In the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, China is now aiming to share the results of these efforts and its lessons learned by facilitating knowledge exchange and providing developing countries with a platform to draw expertise and technology from China's experience in disaster recovery. In this connection, China and UNDP recently hosted a three-day workshop for officials and experts from 10 countries along the Belt and Road with specific experiences in disaster recovery.[51]

D. Additional financing for sustainable development

65. South-South cooperation has become increasingly important for financing sustainable development as it has increased and diversified opportunities for development cooperation. In this context, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledges the contributions of South-South cooperation and notes that international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, plays an important role in complementing domestic efforts to mobilize public resources for financing development (see General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex, paras. 50, 56 and 57). The Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development also acknowledges the role of South-South cooperation in financing development, referencing, inter alia, the increasing volume of South-South cooperation, the establishment of Southern multilateral development institutions and the growing contributions to humanitarian assistance.[52]

66. While taking into account that financial assistance is only one element of financing for development, the Special Rapporteur notes that, for many developing countries, South-South cooperation offers a significant additional resource channel that complements development assistance provided through traditional North-South cooperation.[53] This is particularly the case in the light of the global financial and economic crisis and the failure of developed countries to meet existing commitments concerning official development assistance.[54] According to the Department of

[51] UNDP, "Sharing China's experience to build back better", press release, 24 April 2018, available at http://www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/sharing-china_s-experience-to-build-back-better.html.

[52] See https://developmentfinance.un.org/south-south-and-triangular-cooperation.

[53] UNDP, "Frequently asked questions" (note 37 above); A/69/315, para. 114.

[54] *Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.I.5), pp. 87–89. Available at https://developmentfinance.un.org/sites/developmentfinance.un.org/files/Report_IATF_2018.pdf.

Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the proportion of developing countries that provide development cooperation has increased from 67 to 74 per cent in the period between 2015 and 2017.[55] One estimate suggests that the financial component of such cooperation may have increased to reach $26 billion in 2015.[56] Nevertheless, the Special Rapporteur recalls that generating estimates of South-South cooperation and quantifying it in monetary terms is a difficult exercise owing to the emphasis on non-financial modalities, the lack of data and differing definitions and reporting methods.[57]

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

67. **South-South cooperation has become a vital element of the international cooperation landscape and is firmly anchored in the post-2015 framework for sustainable development. Although South-South cooperation faces some challenges, the Special Rapporteur is convinced that it holds much promise for the future, provided that it is implemented in accordance with the right to development.**

68. **With a view to leveraging the full potential of South-South cooperation to contribute to the realization of the right to development, the Special Rapporteur has identified the following key recommendations for States and other relevant stakeholders.**

A. General

69. **South-South cooperation polices, programmes and initiatives should adopt a right to development perspective. To this end, stakeholders involved in South-South cooperation should integrate the human rights principles enshrined in the right to development in the design, financing, implementation, monitoring and assessment of South-South cooperation processes. This equally applies where South-South cooperation is facilitated by triangular cooperation partners.**

70. **South-South cooperation policies, programmes and activities should promote a holistic understanding of development that goes beyond economic growth, as enshrined in the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development.**

71. **South-South cooperation should be recognized and used as a valuable tool for the identification, sharing and replication of good practices in the practical implementation of the post-2015 policy framework and the realization of the right to development. In order to leverage this potential, the Special Rapporteur encourages the promotion of information-sharing platforms such as SSMart for SDGs (http://global-ssmart.org) and the FAO South-South Cooperation Gateway (www.fao.org/south-south-gateway).**

72. **Triangular cooperation modalities provide an important means to enhance Southern-led partnerships for sustainable development on the global level. Multilateral organizations, in particular, have provided important tools and**

[55] Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Report on QCPR monitoring survey of programme country Governments in 2017" (2018), p. 38. Available at www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2018doc/sgr2018-survey-report-pgc.pdf.

[56] *Financing for Development* (note 54 above), p. 93.

[57] See E/2018/55, paras. 37 and 38; South Centre, "Quantification of South-South cooperation and its implications to the foreign policy of developing countries", Policy brief No. 41 (July 2017), available at www.southcentre.int/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/PB41_Quantification-of-South-South-cooperation-and-its-implications-to-the-foreign-policy-of-developing-countries_EN.pdf.

platforms to facilitate South-South cooperation in various areas of intervention. The Special Rapporteur welcomes such initiatives and urges all developed countries and multilateral organizations to step up their efforts to support and facilitate South-South partnerships as a complement to North-South cooperation.

73. States and other relevant stakeholders should further analyse the added value and long-term impact of South-South and triangular cooperation on the implementation of the post-2015 policy framework and the realization of the right to development. Such an analysis should also examine ways to leverage the comparative advantages of different stakeholders in South-South and triangular cooperation.

74. The Special Rapporteur is of the view that the upcoming Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation should be utilized as an opportunity to advance participatory and inclusive South-South and triangular cooperation that is aligned with the right to development, the post-2015 policy framework and national development objectives. The Conference should also be seen as an opportunity to strengthen the global institutional framework for South-South cooperation by further grounding it in human rights, including the right to development.

B. Inclusive and participatory processes

75. Although States have the primary responsibility for enabling the realization of the right to development, South-South cooperation should not be limited to cooperation between States. In this regard, States should promote avenues for cooperation involving non-state actors, including civil society networks promoting sustainable development. South-South cooperation should reinforce and create equitable multi-stakeholder partnerships that allow various stakeholders (including governments, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society actors, academia and the private sector) to be actively involved.

76. Since the right to development entitles all persons and peoples to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development it is vital that South-South cooperation processes ensure inclusiveness and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders at all levels of decision-making and throughout all phases. The Special Rapporteur stresses that transparency and access to adequate information are crucial in this regard.

77. South-South cooperation policies, programmes and initiatives should focus on identifying and empowering the most disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups with a view to fulfilling the commitment to leaving no one behind. Building their capacity and enabling them to actively participate in decision-making processes is essential to overcome structural inequalities and discrimination; to ensure their place as key actors in the development of their countries; and to ensure equality and equity in sharing the benefits resulting from South-South cooperation.

78. Ensuring that no one is left behind requires attention to the equal rights of women and promoting women's participation in decision-making concerning development policies and programmes, including within the framework of South-South cooperation. Stakeholders involved in South-South cooperation must take action to provide genuine opportunities and strengthen the capacity of women to actively and meaningfully participate throughout the planning, policy design, budgeting, implementation and evaluation stages.

79. **In order to ensure meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, States should create or designate national bodies/agencies dedicated to their South-South cooperation efforts. These bodies should develop strong partnerships with national human rights institutions.**

C. Human rights impact assessments

80. **The Special Rapporteur would like to highlight that human rights impact assessments can be a useful tool to analyse how development policies or projects affect human rights, both positively and negatively. He therefore encourages stakeholders to consider integrating human rights impact assessments in their South-South cooperation initiatives.[58] Such assessments could not only help to prevent and address adverse human rights impacts in the context of South-South cooperation, but they would also allow for fairer and more informed decision-making processes and consequently better development outcomes.**

D. Accountability

81. **With a view to promoting a culture of accountability, stakeholders involved in South-South cooperation should establish transparent and participatory monitoring and evaluation processes.**

82. **South-South cooperation processes should be accompanied by adequate accountability mechanisms that can provide effective remedies for individuals and communities who have been harmed or adversely affected by such processes. Since access to information is key in this regard, detailed information and consultation schemes should be integrated in all South-South cooperation policies and activities along with related budgetary allocations. Such schemes should ensure that affected individuals and communities understand what their rights are and how they can claim them in the context of South-South cooperation processes.**

83. **In line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (A/HRC/17/31, annex), States should take appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure that companies involved in South-South cooperation can be held accountable for human rights abuses in their countries of operation.**

84. **In the future, States should consider integrating South-South cooperation in their national plans of action on human rights. State should also incorporate information on South-South cooperation in their reporting to various human rights mechanisms.**

[58] Concrete recommendations regarding the use of human rights impact assessments can be found in the outcome document of the Regional Consultation for the Western European and other States and Eastern European States, available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/SRDevelopment/Pages/RegionalConsultationEuropeanStates.aspx.